

94TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2451

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 11), 1975

Mr. DOLE (for himself and Mr. McGOVERN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and
Forestry

A BILL

To reform the food stamp program.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
That this Act may be cited as the "Food Stamp Reform Act
of 1975".*

ELIMINATION OF CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

SEC. 2. The Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended, is
amended by:
(a) Deleting in section 3(e) the following: "(No indi-
vidual who receives supplemental security income benefits
under title XVI of the Social Security Act shall be consid-
ered to be a member of a household or an elderly person for

1 any purpose of this Act for any month if such person receives
2 for such month, as part of his supplemental security income
3 benefits or payments described in section 1616 (a) of the
4 Social Security Act (if any), an amount equal to the bonus
5 value of food stamps (according to the food stamp schedule
6 effective for July 1973) in addition to the amount of assist-
7 ance such individual would be entitled to receive for such
8 month under the provisions of the plan of the State approved
9 under title I, X, XIV, or XVI, as appropriate, in effect for
10 December 1973, assuming such plan were in effect for such
11 month and such individual were aged, blind, or disabled, as
12 the case may be, under the provisions of such State plan or
13 under Public Law 92-603, as amended. The Secretary of
14 Health, Education, and Welfare shall issue regulations for
15 the implementation of the foregoing sentence after consul-
16 tation with the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

17 (b) Inserting in section 5 (b) after “for participation
18 by”, the following: “public assistance and nonpublic assist-
19 ance”.

20 (c) Deleting the period in the first sentence of section
21 5 (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “: *Pro-*
22 *vided*, That supplemental security income recipients in (1)
23 a State which provides State supplementary payments of the
24 type described in section 1616 (a) of the Social Security Act,
25 and (2) the level of which has been found by the Secretary

1 pursuant to section 8 of Public Law 93-233 to have been
2 specifically increased so as to include bonus value of food
3 stamps, shall continue to be ineligible to participate in the
4 food stamp program pursuant to this Act.”.

5 RELATEDNESS

6 SEC. 3. Section 3 (e) of the Food Stamp Act of 1964,
7 as amended, is amended by deleting the following: “related
8 individuals (including legally adopted children and legally
9 assigned foster children) or nonrelated individuals over age
10 60” and insert in lieu thereof the word “individuals”.

11 COOKING FACILITIES

12 SEC. 4. Section 3 (e) of the Food Stamp Act of 1964,
13 as amended, is amended by adding after the second sentence
14 the following: “*Provided*, That households in which a mem-
15 ber is eligible to participate in the nutrition program for the
16 elderly under title VII of the Older Americans Act, or is
17 authorized by section 10 (h) of this Act to use coupons for
18 meals on wheels, shall not be required to have cooking
19 facilities.”.

20 STUDENTS

21 SEC. 5 (a) Section 5 (b) of the Food Stamp Act, as
22 amended, is amended by deleting: “Any household which
23 includes a member who has reached his eighteenth birthday
24 and who is claimed as a dependent child for Federal income
25 tax purposes by a taxpayer who is not a member of an

1 eligible household, shall be ineligible to participate in any
2 food stamp program established pursuant to this Act during
3 the tax period such dependency is claimed and for a period
4 of one year after expiration of such tax period.”.

5 (b) Section 5 of the Food Stamp Act, as amended, is
6 amended by redesignating 5 (d) as 5 (e) and inserting a new
7 section 5 (d) as follows:

8 “(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
9 household shall not be available for assistance under this Act
10 to the extent that the entitlement is attributed to an individ-
11 ual who: (i) has reached his eighteenth birthday; (ii) is en-
12 rolled in an institution of higher education, and (iii) is
13 properly claimed as a dependent child for Federal income
14 tax purposes by a taxpayer who is not a member of an eli-
15 gible household.

16 (2) Exclusions from income shall include but not be
17 limited to all educational loans, including scholarships to the
18 extent they are used for tuition and mandatory school fees at
19 an institution of higher learning or school for the handi-
20 capped.”.

21 WORK REGISTRATION AGE LIMIT

22 SEC. 6. Section 5 (e) of the Food Stamp Act of 1964,
23 as amended, is amended by deleting “sixty-five” and insert-
24 ing in lieu thereof “sixty”.

1 EMPLOYER HOUSING

2 SEC. 7. Section 5 (b) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended,
3 is amended by deleting: “: *Provided*, That such standards
4 shall take into account payments in kind received from an
5 employer to members of a household, if such payments are
6 in lieu of or supplemental to household income: *Provided*
7 *further*, That such payments in kind shall be limited only to
8 housing provided by such employer to such employee and
9 shall be the actual value of such housing but in no event
10 shall such value be considered to be in excess of the sum of
11 \$25 per month.” and inserting in lieu thereof a period.

12 STANDARD DEDUCTION

13 SEC. 8. Section 5 (b) of the Food Stamp Act, as
14 amended, is amended by striking out the colon preceding the
15 first provision in the second sentence and inserting in lieu
16 thereof a period and the following: “In computing the in-
17 come of any household for purposes of determining the eli-
18 gibility and coupon allotment of such household under this
19 Act, the Secretary shall allow a standard deduction after
20 disaster or casualty losses, taxes, and other mandatory deduc-
21 tions of \$125 plus, if the household has one or more elderly
22 persons, \$25. Such standard deduction shall be adjusted
23 semiannually to reflect any changes in the cost of living
24 during the preceding six months (based on the Consumer

1 Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics).
2 Such standard deduction shall be modified by the Secretary
3 on a regional and metropolitan-nonmetropolitan, basis to re-
4 flect variations in the cost of housing and utilities in different
5 areas of the United States.”.

6 ELIMINATION OF THE PURCHASE PRICE

7 SEC. 9. (a) The first sentence of section 4 (a) of the
8 Food Stamp Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:
9 “The Secretary is authorized to formulate and administer a
10 food stamp program under which, at the request of the State
11 agency, eligible households within the State shall be provided
12 with a supplement to their incomes, through the use of a
13 coupon allotment, sufficient to provide such households with
14 an opportunity to obtain a nutritionally adequate diet.”.

15 (b) The section head of section 7 of the Food Stamp
16 Act of 1964 is amended by striking out “AND CHARGES TO
17 BE MADE”.

18 (c) Section 7 (a) of such Act is amended by striking
19 out that portion preceding “adjusted semiannually.” and
20 inserting in lieu thereof the following: “The face value of the
21 coupon allotment which State agencies shall be authorized
22 to issue for any period to any household certified as eligible
23 to participate in the food stamp program shall be in such
24 amount as the Secretary determines to be the cost of a nutri-
25 tionally adequate diet, reduced by an amount equal to 30

1 per centum of such household's income: *Provided*, That for
2 single-person households and two-person households the
3 minimum allotment shall be \$10: *Provided further*, That
4 all other households shall be ineligible if the allotment is
5 less than \$5. The coupon allotment shall be adjusted semi-
6 annually by the nearest dollar increment that is a multiple
7 of two to reflect changes in the prices of food published by
8 the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor
9 to be implemented commencing with the allotments of Jan-
10 uary 1, 1974, incorporating the changes in the prices of food
11 through August 31, 1973, but in no event shall such adjust-
12 ments be made for households of a given size unless the
13 increase in the face value of the coupon allotment for such
14 households, as calculated above, is a minimum of \$2.

15 (d) Sections 7 (b) and 7 (d) of the Act are repealed.

16 (e) Section 7 (c) is redesignated as 7 (b) and the fol-
17 lowing is deleted: "which is in excess of the amount charged
18 such household for such allotment."

19 (f) (1) Clause (7) of the second sentence of section
20 10 (e) of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 is amended to
21 read as follows: "(7) notwithstanding any other pro-
22 vision of law, the institution of procedures under which
23 any household participating in the program shall be entitled
24 to have its coupon allotment distributed to it with any grant

1 or payment to which such household may be entitled under
2 title IX of the Social Security Act; and”.

3 (2) Section 10 (g) of the Food Stamp Act of 1964
4 is amended to read as follows:

5 “(g) If the Secretary determines that there has been
6 gross negligence or fraud on the part of the State agency
7 in the certification of applicant households, the State shall,
8 upon request of the Secretary, deposit into a separate ac-
9 count established in the Treasury a sum equal to the face
10 value of any coupon issued as a result of such negligence or
11 fraud. Funds deposited into such account shall be available
12 without fiscal year limitation for the redemption of coupons.”.

13 (g) (1) The third sentence of section 16 (a) of the
14 Food Stamp Act of 1964 is repealed.

15 (2) Subsections (b) and (c) of section 16 of such
16 Act are repealed and subsection (d) is redesignated as
17 subsection (b).

18 (h) The amendments made by this section shall be-
19 come effective with respect to coupon allotments issued on
20 and after July 1, 1976.

21 NUTRITION EDUCATION

22 SEC. 10. Section 10 (a) of the Food Stamp Act, as
23 amended, is amended by deleting the second sentence and
24 inserting in lieu thereof the following: “To encourage pur-
25 chases of nutritious foods, the Secretary shall carry out a

1 program of nutrition education for recipients, including
2 distribution of brief printed materials designed to teach
3 recipients how to buy and prepare nutritious and economical
4 meals, and, in addition, he shall enlist the voluntary co-
5 operation of existing Federal, State, local, or private agen-
6 cies which carry out informational and educational nutri-
7 tion programs for consumers. On January 1 of each year
8 following the year of enactment, the Secretary shall report
9 to the Congress, in twenty-five pages or less, on the steps
10 he has taken with respect to nutrition education and the
11 extent to which such nutrition education efforts have im-
12 proved the diets of recipients.”.

13 RETROACTIVE BENEFITS

14 SEC. 11. Section 10 is amended by adding a new sub-
15 section (j) as follows:

16 “(j) Wrongfully denied food coupons shall be restored
17 through a lump-sum cash payment.”.

18 MEALS ON WHEELS

19 SEC. 12. Section 10 (h) of the Food Stamp Act of
20 1964, as amended, is amended by deleting the first sentence
21 and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “Subject to such
22 terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Secretary
23 in the regulations issued pursuant to this Act, household
24 members of persons who are elderly, housebound, feeble,
25 physically handicapped, or otherwise disabled, to the extent

1 that they are unable to adequately prepare all of their meals,
2 may use coupons issued to them to purchase meals prepared
3 for and delivered to them by a political subdivision or by a
4 private nonprofit organization which (1) is operated in a
5 manner consistent with the purposes of this Act; and (2) is
6 recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the Internal
7 Revenue Service.”.

8 BILINGUAL ASSISTANCE

9 SEC. 13. Section 10 is amended by adding a new sec-
10 tion (k) as follows:

11 “(k) in such areas wherein numerous potentially
12 eligible persons speak a language other than English, multi-
13 lingual personnel and printed material shall be used in the
14 administration of the program.”.

15 PROGRAM NOTIFICATION

16 SEC. 14. Section 10 (e) (5) is amended by inserting
17 after the word “including” the following: “notification of
18 all social security, AFDC (aid to families with dependent
19 children), supplemental security income, and unemployment
20 compensation recipients of the existence of the food stamp
21 program and its income and resource guidelines, and”.

22 CRIMINAL PENALTIES

23 SEC. 15. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 14 of the
24 Food Stamp Act, as amended, are amended by striking out
25 “\$5,000” and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,000”.

ASSETS

1
2 SEC. 16. The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct
3 a survey of households participating in the food stamp pro-
4 gram under the Food Stamp Act of 1964 for the purpose
5 of determining the average and distribution of assets held
6 by such participants. The Secretary shall submit a written
7 report to the Congress within one hundred eighty days after
8 the date of enactment of this section disclosing the results
9 of such survey including such explanations and comments
10 on such results as he deems appropriate.

PILOT PROJECT AUTHORITY

11
12 SEC. 17. The Food Stamp Act, as amended is amended
13 by adding a new section as follows:

14 "SEC. 18. In carrying out the provisions of the Act,
15 the Secretary is authorized to carry out on a trial basis, in
16 one or more areas of the United States, experimental projects
17 for purposes of increasing the program's efficiency and im-
18 proving the delivery of benefits to eligible households: *Pro-*
19 *vided, however,* That no project shall be implemented which
20 shall have the effect of reducing or terminating benefits to
21 households eligible for assistance under this Act."

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