

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7144

To amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to establish a national food rescue system through partnerships with food rescue organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to establish a national food rescue system through partnerships with food rescue organizations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Food Rescue Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FOOD RESCUE SYS-**
6 **TEM.**

7 The Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7
8 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 216. NATIONAL FOOD RESCUE SYSTEM.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
3 culture, acting through the Food and Nutrition Service,
4 shall establish and operate a national food rescue system
5 to coordinate the recovery, processing, transportation, and
6 distribution of surplus and donated food to emergency
7 feeding organizations and food-insecure communities.

8 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (a),
9 food rescue organizations shall—

10 “(1) identify sources of surplus or excess food
11 across the agricultural, retail, manufacturing, and
12 distribution sectors;

13 “(2) develop and maintain partnerships with
14 nonprofit food rescue organizations, food banks, and
15 local agencies to recover and distribute such food;

16 “(3) expand and strengthen logistics and infra-
17 structure necessary for food rescue, including aggre-
18 gation sites, transportation, cold-chain storage, and
19 last-mile delivery;

20 “(4) support technology platforms and data sys-
21 tems used to identify, track, and redirect surplus
22 food; and

23 “(5) provide technical assistance to partici-
24 pating entities to enhance efficiency and coordina-
25 tion.

1 “(c) GRANT PROGRAM.—To carry out this section,
2 the Secretary shall establish a competitive grant program
3 to support activities described in subsection (b).

4 “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Grants under this section
5 shall be awarded to food rescue organizations, which may
6 carry out projects in partnership with food banks, food
7 recovery networks, State, local, Tribal, or Territorial gov-
8 ernments, logistics providers, front-line emergency food
9 providers, and other relevant partners.

10 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds may be used
11 for—

12 “(1) food rescue and recovery operations, in-
13 cluding gleaning and aggregation;

14 “(2) transportation and delivery of surplus
15 food, including cold-chain logistics;

16 “(3) storage, processing, or repackaging infra-
17 structure needed for redistribution;

18 “(4) technology used to match surplus food
19 with receiving organizations in real time;

20 “(5) personnel, equipment, or operational needs
21 that support food rescue activities; and

22 “(6) administrative costs, as determined appro-
23 priate by the Secretary.

24 “(f) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible enti-
25 ty seeking a grant under this section shall submit an appli-

1 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
2 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
3 including—

4 “(1) a description of the proposed project and
5 expected food-rescue impact, including estimated
6 pounds of food recovered and households served;

7 “(2) identification of participating partners, in-
8 cluding producers, distributors, retailers, or logistics
9 entities;

10 “(3) a budget and implementation timeline; and

11 “(4) a plan for sourcing, transporting, storing,
12 and delivering surplus food to emergency feeding or-
13 ganizations and food-insecure communities.

14 “(g) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordi-
15 nate activities under this section with—

16 “(1) programs authorized under the Emergency
17 Food Assistance Act of 1983;

18 “(2) the Farm-to-Food Bank Project estab-
19 lished under section 203D; and

20 “(3) other USDA efforts to reduce food loss
21 and waste.

22 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
24 necessary to carry out this section.”.

1 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**

2 Section 203D(b) of the Emergency Food Assistance
3 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507(b)) is amended by inserting
4 “(excluding funds appropriated under section 216)” after
5 “appropriated under this Act”.

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