

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7259

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to exclude certain military housing allowances from the calculation of household income, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2026

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. MACKENZIE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to exclude certain military housing allowances from the calculation of household income, and for other purposes.

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 “Military Dependents
5 School Meal Eligibility Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT CERTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE**
2 **MEMBERS OF A HOUSEHOLD OF A MEMBER**
3 **OF A UNIFORMED SERVICE.**

4 (a) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1,
6 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation
7 with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Con-
8 gress a report on the feasibility and cost of estab-
9 lishing procedures under which children who are
10 members of a household of a member of a uniformed
11 service may be certified as eligible for free or re-
12 duced price lunches under the Richard B. Russell
13 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.)
14 and free or reduced price breakfasts under the Child
15 Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.),
16 without further application.

17 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under
18 paragraph (1) shall evaluate a range of options for
19 implementing direct certification, including—

20 (A) the use and sharing of data collected
21 for the calculation of the basic needs allowance
22 under section 402b of title 37, United States
23 Code, and other assistance programs for mem-
24 bers of a uniformed service; and

25 (B) the exclusion of non-service member
26 income from the calculation of household in-

1 come under the Richard B. Russell National
2 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

3 (b) EXCLUSION OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING
4 FROM INCOME CALCULATION.—Section 9(b)(13) of the
5 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1758(b)(13)) is amended by striking “, on behalf of” and
7 all that follows through “related provision of law”.

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