

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8960

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a subsidy program to make payments to eligible producers for certain revenue losses associated with direct-to-market sales of beef, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2026

Mr. BURCHETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a subsidy program to make payments to eligible producers for certain revenue losses associated with direct-to-market sales of beef, 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 “Local Beef Marketing  
5       Incentive Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL BEEF MARKETING SUB-**  
2 **SIDY PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-  
5 culture, acting through the Administrator of the Farm  
6 Service Agency, (in this section referred to as the “Sec-  
7 retary”) shall establish a program under which the Sec-  
8 retary shall, with respect to each year determined to be  
9 a subsidy year under subsection (b), make payments to  
10 eligible producers for revenue losses associated with direct-  
11 to-market sales of beef.

12 (b) DETERMINATION OF SUBSIDY YEAR.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1 of  
14 each calendar year, the Secretary shall determine  
15 the percent decrease, if any, in direct-to-market  
16 sales of beef for the preceding calendar year com-  
17 pared to the average direct-to-market sales of beef  
18 for the 5-year period preceding such calendar year,  
19 excluding the year with the highest and the year  
20 with the lowest direct-to-market sales of beef.

21 (2) QUALIFICATION FOR SUBSIDY YEAR.—If the  
22 percent determined under paragraph (1) with re-  
23 spect to a calendar year is greater than or equal to  
24 25 percent for a calendar year, such calendar year  
25 shall be a subsidy year.

1           (c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a pay-  
2 ment under this section for a subsidy year, an eligible pro-  
3 ducer shall, not later than 1 year after the last date of  
4 such subsidy year, submit to the Secretary an application,  
5 including—

6           (1) documentation demonstrating that such  
7 producer used a local processor during the subsidy  
8 year, including receipts or invoices;

9           (2) documentation of any direct-to-market sale  
10 completed by such producer during the subsidy year,  
11 including sale records, invoices, or such other docu-  
12 mentation as the Secretary determines appropriate;  
13 and

14           (3) a certification by the producer that such  
15 producer meets each requirement required pursuant  
16 to subsection (g)(3).

17       (d) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
19 not later than 90 days after receiving an application  
20 from an eligible producer with respect to a subsidy  
21 year under subsection (c), the Secretary shall, with  
22 respect to each head of cattle that such producer  
23 slaughters using a local processor and sells through  
24 direct-to-market sales in the subsidy year, make a

1 payment to such producer in an amount that is  
2 equal to—

3 (A) 20 percent of the amount equal to—

4 (i) the average of the beef cattle price  
5 for the 5 years preceding the subsidy year,  
6 excluding the year with the highest and the  
7 year with the lowest average beef cattle  
8 price; minus

9 (ii) the beef cattle price for the sub-  
10 sidy year; multiplied by

11 (B) the average of the live weight (in hun-  
12 dredweight) for all such cattle.

13 (2) LIMITATIONS.—

14 (A) MAXIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT WITH  
15 RESPECT TO HEAD OF CATTLE.—The payment  
16 amount to a producer with respect to a head of  
17 cattle shall not exceed \$500.

18 (B) MAXIMUM TOTAL PAYMENT  
19 AMOUNT.—The total amount of payments re-  
20 ceived under paragraph (1) by a producer for a  
21 subsidy year shall not exceed \$100,000.

22 (e) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the  
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issues  
24 such rules as may be necessary to carry out this section,

1 including establishing procedures for verifying eligibility of  
2 a producer and preventing fraud.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4 authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary to  
5 carry out this section for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) BEEF CATTLE PRICE.—The term “beef cat-  
8 tle price” means the annual average price received  
9 by producers for all beef cattle (in dollars per hun-  
10 dredweight), as determined by the Secretary using  
11 data reported by the National Agricultural Statistics  
12 Service of the Department of Agriculture.

13 (2) DIRECT-TO-MARKET SALE.—The term “di-  
14 rect-to-market sale” means the sale of beef prod-  
15 ucts—

16 (A) directly to consumers, restaurants, or  
17 retail stores;

18 (B) through farmers’ markets, on-farm  
19 sales, community-supported agriculture pro-  
20 grams, or similar channels; and

21 (C) without using an intermediary, includ-  
22 ing a large-scale packer or distributor.

23 (3) ELIGIBLE PRODUCER.—The term “eligible  
24 producer” means a farmer or rancher that—

1 (A) raises and finishes steers or heifers for  
2 slaughter;

3 (B) uses a local processor for such slaugh-  
4 ter; and

5 (C) engages in direct-to-market sales for at  
6 least 50 percent of their beef production in the  
7 subsidy year.

8 (4) HEAD OF CATTLE.—The term “head of cat-  
9 tle” means an individual steer or heifer.

10 (5) LOCAL PROCESSOR.—The term “local proc-  
11 essor” means a slaughter facility that is—

12 (A) inspected by the Food Safety and In-  
13 spection Service of the Department of Agri-  
14 culture, or an equivalent State inspection pro-  
15 gram; and

16 (B) located—

17 (i) in the same State as the eligible  
18 producer using the services of such facility;

19 or

20 (ii) within 200-miles of such producer.

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