

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9474

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Local Foods for Healthy Schools Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2026

Ms. McDONALD RIVET (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the Local Foods for Healthy Schools Program.

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 Foods for
5 Healthy Schools Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOCAL FOODS FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROGRAM.**

7 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
8 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

1 **“SEC. 210B. LOCAL FOODS FOR HEALTHY SCHOOLS PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
4 lish a program, to be known as the ‘Local Foods for
5 Healthy Schools Program’, (in this section referred to as
6 the ‘Program’) under which the Secretary shall enter into
7 noncompetitive cooperative agreements with eligible units
8 of government for the purpose of—

9 “(1) purchasing local foods from covered pro-
10 ducers; and

11 “(2) facilitating the distribution of such foods
12 to schools operating in the geographic boundaries of
13 each such eligible unit of government.

14 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Under a cooperative agree-
15 ment entered into under this section, an eligible unit of
16 government shall—

17 “(1) with respect to the use of any funds re-
18 ceived under the Program—

19 “(A) purchase only local foods from a cov-
20 ered producer and distribute such food to any
21 school food authority that is interested in re-
22 ceiving such food; or

23 “(B) disburse such funds to any such
24 school food authority to purchase only local
25 foods from a covered producer; and

1 “(2) reserve not more than 5 percent of any
2 funds received under the Program to—

3 “(A) provide training and technical assist-
4 ance to persons involved in carrying out the ac-
5 tivities described under this section;

6 “(B) with respect to purchasing local foods
7 from a covered producer, pay the cost such pro-
8 ducer incurs in obtaining any required food
9 safety certification;

10 “(C) conduct oversight and reporting in
11 the State of such eligible unit of government;
12 and

13 “(D) administer the activities described
14 under this section.

15 “(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible unit of government
16 seeking to enter into a cooperative agreement under the
17 Program shall submit to the Secretary an application at
18 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
19 tion as the Secretary may require, including—

20 “(1) a plan that—

21 “(A) identifies the lead agency responsible
22 for carrying out such plan;

23 “(B) identifies any community partner, in-
24 cluding an aggregator, that will contribute to
25 implementation of such plan;

1 “(C) describes the proposed use of any
2 funds received under the Program; and

3 “(D) demonstrates that, to the extent pos-
4 sible based on availability and local conditions,
5 a wide variety of local foods will be purchased
6 and distributed using funds received under the
7 Program; and

8 “(2) an assurance that—

9 “(A) the funds received under this section
10 will supplement, and not supplant, funds pro-
11 vided by the State in support of providing local
12 foods to school food authorities or for school
13 meals; and

14 “(B) the eligible unit of government has
15 sufficient mechanisms in place to ensure the ef-
16 ficient and reliable transfer of funds received
17 under the Program, or distribution of food, to
18 school food authorities, schools, covered pro-
19 ducers, and community partners in accordance
20 with the plan required under paragraph (1).

21 “(d) COORDINATION.—In carrying out any require-
22 ments of the Program, an eligible unit of government shall
23 coordinate with any other applicable eligible unit of gov-
24 ernment in the State in which such unit of government
25 operates.

1 “(e) NONCOMPETITIVE ALLOCATION.—

2 “(1) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—Of the amounts
3 available to carry out the Program for each fiscal
4 year, the Secretary shall develop an allocation for-
5 mula that provides—

6 “(A) a State-based allocation that is equal
7 for each State;

8 “(B) that any funds remaining after the
9 allocation under subparagraph (A) are distrib-
10 uted such that the amount a State receives
11 under this subparagraph bears the same pro-
12 portion to such remaining funds as the number
13 of students receiving meals under the programs
14 described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sub-
15 section (h)(4) in that State bears to the number
16 of such students in all States; and

17 “(C) in the case of funds allocated to an
18 eligible unit of government that are not obli-
19 gated by the end of the applicable performance
20 period, for the rescission and reallocation, in
21 the manner described in subparagraph (B), of
22 such funds for purposes of carrying out the
23 Program.

24 “(2) LIMITATION.—In developing the allocation
25 formula under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall

1 allot not more than 30 percent of the total funds
2 available to carry out this section under subsection
3 (g) to the State-based allocation under paragraph
4 (1)(A).

5 “(3) REALLOCATION.—From any funds that an
6 eligible unit of government has not obligated by the
7 end of the performance period for the cooperative
8 agreement of such eligible unit of government, the
9 Secretary may reallocate, in the manner described in
10 paragraph (1)(B), such funds to 1 or more States
11 in which an eligible unit of government has entered
12 into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary, if
13 such eligible unit of government in such a State has
14 the capacity to expend additional funds.

15 “(f) REPORTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
17 after the date on which the Secretary requires any
18 funds received under the Program to be expended,
19 each eligible unit of government that enters into a
20 cooperative agreement under the Program shall sub-
21 mit to the Secretary a report containing data relat-
22 ing to the purchase and distribution of local foods
23 described under subsection (b)(1), including the
24 amount of any funds expended, the name of the cov-

1 ered producer receiving any such funds, and the
2 local foods purchased from such producer.

3 “(2) DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.—In es-
4 tablishing any additional requirement related to the
5 submission of a report under paragraph (1), the Sec-
6 retary shall minimize any administrative burden on
7 eligible units of government, school food authorities,
8 schools, and community partners involved in car-
9 rying out the activities described under this section.

10 “(3) PUBLICATION.—An eligible unit of govern-
11 ment that submits a report under paragraph (1)
12 shall make such report available to the public on the
13 website of the State educational agency (as defined
14 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
15 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)) of the ap-
16 plicable State at the time of such submission.

17 “(g) FUNDING.—

18 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—For fiscal year
19 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary
20 shall use \$200,000,000 of the funds of the Com-
21 modity Credit Corporation to carry out this section.

22 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
23 addition to other funds and authorities available to
24 the Secretary, there is authorized to be appropriated
25 to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for fiscal year

1 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, to remain
2 available until expended.

3 “(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Notwithstanding any
4 other provision of law, the Secretary may reserve not
5 more than 0.50 percent of the total amount of funds
6 made available under this subsection each fiscal year
7 to support Federal administrative activities to carry
8 out this section.

9 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term ‘covered
11 producer’ means a farmer, producer, rancher, proc-
12 essor, distributor, or other such business involved in
13 food production or distribution that—

14 “(A) is in the geographic boundaries of a
15 State in which an eligible unit of government
16 has entered into a cooperative agreement with
17 the Secretary under this section;

18 “(B) is in a 400-mile radius of the location
19 of the school food authority receiving a distribu-
20 tion under the Program; or

21 “(C) meets such other requirement pro-
22 posed by such eligible unit of government and
23 approved by the Secretary.

24 “(2) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT.—The
25 term ‘eligible unit of government’ means an agency,

1 commission, or department of a State responsible for
2 agriculture, child nutrition, procurement, food dis-
3 tribution, or such other similar activities, as deter-
4 mined appropriate by the Secretary, in such State.

5 “(3) LOCAL FOODS.—The term ‘local foods’
6 means agricultural products that—

7 “(A) are minimally processed, including
8 products that are whole, cut, pureed, fresh, fro-
9 zen, canned, or dried; and

10 “(B) are produced and distributed—

11 “(i) in the same State;

12 “(ii) in a 400-mile radius of the
13 school food authority receiving or pur-
14 chasing such products under the Program;
15 or

16 “(iii) in a manner that meets any
17 such other requirement proposed by such
18 eligible unit of government and approved
19 by the Secretary.

20 “(4) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ means a
21 school (as defined in section 12(d) of the Richard B.
22 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
23 1760(d))) that participates in—

1 “(A) the school lunch program established
2 under the Richard B. Russell National School
3 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.); or

4 “(B) the school breakfast program estab-
5 lished under section 4 of the Child Nutrition
6 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

7 “(5) SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITY.—The term
8 ‘school food authority’ means the governing body
9 that—

10 “(A) is responsible for the administration
11 of a program described in subparagraph (A) or
12 (B) of paragraph (4) in one or more schools;
13 and

14 “(B) has legal authority to receive from an
15 eligible unit of government a distribution of
16 local foods or disbursement of funds under the
17 Program.

18 “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
19 the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 “(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means any of
21 the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
22 monwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands,
23 Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of
24 the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

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