

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2338

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Strengthening Local Food Security Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2025

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Strengthening Local Food Security Program, 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 “Strengthening Local
5 Food Security Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 Subtitle A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946
 4 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 210B. STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY PRO-**
 7 **GRAM.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COLLABORATOR.—The term ‘collaborator’,
 10 with respect to a project carried out under the Pro-
 11 gram, means an individual or entity (including a pri-
 12 vate entity, a for-profit entity, and a nonprofit enti-
 13 ty) that—

14 “(A) is unaffiliated with the eligible unit of
 15 government carrying out the project;

16 “(B) cooperates with respect to—

17 “(i) the application relating to the
 18 project under subsection (e); and

19 “(ii) the conduct of the project; and

20 “(C) is not immediately connected to the
 21 management of the project.

22 “(2) COVERED PRODUCER.—The term ‘covered
 23 producer’ means, as determined by the Secretary—

24 “(A) a small or mid-sized fisher, farmer, or
 25 rancher;

1 “(B) a beginning fisher, farmer, or ranch-
2 er;

3 “(C) a veteran fisher, farmer, or rancher;
4 and

5 “(D) an underserved fisher, farmer, or
6 rancher.

7 “(3) ELIGIBLE UNIT OF GOVERNMENT.—The
8 term ‘eligible unit of government’ means—

9 “(A) a State agency, commission, or de-
10 partment that is responsible for agriculture,
11 procurement, food distribution, emergency re-
12 sponse, or other similar activities within the
13 State;

14 “(B) the District of Columbia;

15 “(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

16 “(D) the United States Virgin Islands;

17 “(E) Guam; and

18 “(F) a Tribal government.

19 “(4) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘partnership’
20 means a relationship involving close cooperation be-
21 tween or among individuals and entities (including
22 private, for-profit, and nonprofit entities) with speci-
23 fied, joint rights and responsibilities in the manage-
24 ment of a project carried out under the Program.

1 “(5) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
2 the Strengthening Local Food Security Program es-
3 tablished under subsection (b).

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

6 “(7) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term
7 ‘underserved community’ means a community (in-
8 cluding an urban or rural community and a Tribal
9 community) that, as determined by the Secretary—

10 “(A) has limited access to affordable,
11 healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegeta-
12 bles, in grocery retail stores or farmer-to-con-
13 sumer direct markets; and

14 “(B) has—

15 “(i) a high rate of hunger or food in-
16 security; or

17 “(ii) a high poverty rate.

18 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish a program, to be known as the ‘Strengthening Local
20 Food Security Program’, under which the Secretary shall
21 enter into cooperative agreements with eligible units of
22 government for the purposes of—

23 “(1) purchasing food, including seafood,
24 produce, meat, eggs, dairy, and poultry, from local
25 and regional covered producers; and

1 “(2) distributing that food within the geo-
2 graphic boundaries of the eligible unit of govern-
3 ment, including to hunger relief organizations and
4 schools participating in school meal programs under
5 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and the Child Nutrition
7 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

8 “(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program
9 are—

10 “(1) to maintain and improve food and agricul-
11 tural supply chain resiliency and expand economic
12 opportunities for covered producers;

13 “(2) to promote food security; and

14 “(3) to strengthen the food system for food
15 banks, schools, and childcare institutions.

16 “(d) NONCOMPETITIVE ALLOCATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(A) enter into cooperative agreements
19 with, and provide funding to, eligible units of
20 government under the Program on a non-
21 competitive basis;

22 “(B) of the amounts appropriated to carry
23 out the Program for each fiscal year—

1 “(i) allocate 10 percent to Tribal gov-
 2 ernments, to be allocated using a funding
 3 formula determined by the Secretary;

4 “(ii) of the amounts remaining after
 5 making the allocation under clause (i), al-
 6 locate 1 percent to each State; and

7 “(iii) after making the allocations
 8 under clauses (i) and (ii), allocate the re-
 9 maining amounts to each eligible unit of
 10 government (excluding Tribal govern-
 11 ments) by applying the formula described
 12 in section 214 of Public Law 98–8 (7
 13 U.S.C. 7515); and

14 “(C) in the case of an eligible unit of gov-
 15 ernment that has not submitted to the Sec-
 16 retary, by the date that is 1 year after the date
 17 on which amounts are allocated to the eligible
 18 unit of government under subparagraph (B), an
 19 application under subsection (e) for spending
 20 those amounts, redistribute those amounts to 1
 21 or more other eligible units of government with
 22 the capacity to spend those amounts.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE UNITS OF GOVERNMENT IN
 24 SAME STATE.—For purposes of allocating funding
 25 under paragraph (1), 1 or more eligible units of gov-

ernment described in subsection (a)(3)(A) in the same State shall be treated as 1 eligible unit of government.

“(e) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive funding under this section, an eligible unit of government shall submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall require, by regulation, including—

“(A) a plan that—

“(i) identifies—

“(I) the lead agency responsible for carrying out the plan; and

“(II) community partners that will contribute to the implementation of the plan;

“(ii) describes the means by which the funds will be used—

“(I) to grow a local food system; and

“(II)(aa) to promote food security;

“(bb) to increase the prevalence of local, nutritious food in schools; or

1 “(cc) to carry out both items (aa)

2 and (bb); and

3 “(iii) meets the requirements of sub-

4 section (f); and

5 “(B) an assurance that—

6 “(i) the eligible unit of government

7 will comply with the requirements of the

8 plan; and

9 “(ii) the funds will supplement, not

10 supplant, funds provided by the eligible

11 unit of government in support of local

12 food, school meals, or hunger relief sys-

13 tems.

14 “(2) REVIEW.—The Secretary—

15 “(A) shall review each application sub-

16 mitted under paragraph (1) to ensure that the

17 plan included in the application will carry out

18 the purposes of the Program described in sub-

19 section (c); and

20 “(B) may accept or reject each application,

21 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

22 “(f) REQUIREMENTS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Under a cooperative agree-

24 ment entered into under the Program, an eligible

25 unit of government shall—

1 “(A) only purchase food—

2 “(i) from fishermen, farmers, pro-
3 ducers, and processors that are—

4 “(I) within the geographic bound-
5 aries of the eligible unit of govern-
6 ment in which the food will be deliv-
7 ered; or

8 “(II) not more than 400 miles
9 from the delivery destination of the
10 food; or

11 “(ii) through a subawardee described
12 in subsection (g)(1) that purchases food to
13 fulfill the subaward only from fishermen,
14 farmers, producers, and processors that
15 are—

16 “(I) within the geographic bound-
17 aries of the eligible unit of govern-
18 ment in which the food will be deliv-
19 ered; or

20 “(II) not more than 400 miles
21 from the delivery destination of the
22 food;

23 “(B) ensure that not less than 51 percent
24 of the total annual value of products purchased
25 by the eligible unit of government and any sub-

1 awardees comprises purchases from covered
2 producers;

3 “(C) give priority to distributing food to
4 underserved communities;

5 “(D) expend funding not later than 3
6 years after the date on which the funding is
7 provided to the eligible unit of government; and

8 “(E) subject to paragraph (2), use not
9 more than 25 percent of the amount allocated
10 to the eligible unit of government for Program
11 administration and technical assistance, which
12 may include support for—

13 “(i) participating producers;

14 “(ii) efforts to grow the local agricul-
15 tural value chain; and

16 “(iii) covered producers in obtaining
17 food safety training and certifications.

18 “(2) ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL ASSIST-
19 ANCE.—Of the amount used for Program adminis-
20 tration and technical assistance under paragraph
21 (1)(E), an eligible unit of government shall allocate
22 not less than 35 percent for technical assistance.

23 “(g) SUBCONTRACTS AND SUBAWARDS.—To effec-
24 tuate the purposes of the Program described in subsection
25 (c), an eligible unit of government—

1 “(1) may enter into subcontracts (including
2 with other units of that government) and provide
3 subawards to support partnerships and collabo-
4 rators, subject to subsection (f)(1)(E); and

5 “(2) on entering into a subcontract or
6 subaward pursuant to paragraph (1), shall—

7 “(A) structure the subcontract or
8 subaward to be inclusive of all costs associated
9 with implementing the Program purposes, in-
10 cluding the costs of—

11 “(i) food products;

12 “(ii) aggregation and distribution;

13 “(iii) equipment or infrastructure up-
14 grades to support food safety compliance;

15 and

16 “(iv) personnel; and

17 “(B) require members of a partnership and
18 collaborators to demonstrate evidence of exist-
19 ing community or industry engagement.

20 “(h) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—To effectuate the
21 purposes of the Program described in subsection (c) and
22 ensure that the producers described in subsection
23 (f)(1)(B) can meaningfully participate in the Program, the
24 Secretary shall provide—

1 “(1) not less than 50 percent of the funding
 2 awarded to an eligible unit of government in advance
 3 of the distribution of food under the agreement en-
 4 tered into under the Program; and

5 “(2) the remaining funding awarded to the eli-
 6 gible unit of government not later than the midpoint
 7 of the period of performance established in that
 8 agreement.

9 “(i) FOOD SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFI-
 10 CATION.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require
 12 food purchased under a cooperative agreement en-
 13 tered into under the Program to be purchased from
 14 a farm that has undergone food safety training, or
 15 received a relevant food safety certification, with re-
 16 spect to production, packaging, handling, and stor-
 17 age to minimize risks of food safety hazards.

18 “(2) TRAINING, PLANS, AND CERTIFI-
 19 CATIONS.—If the Secretary imposes the requirement
 20 described in paragraph (1)—

21 “(A)(i) compliance with the requirement
 22 may be demonstrated by—

23 “(I) a receipt of food safety training,
 24 including Good Agricultural Practices

1 training, or an equivalent food safety cur-
 2 rriculum; or

3 “(II) a relevant food safety certifi-
 4 cation; but

5 “(ii) the Secretary shall not require such
 6 compliance to be demonstrated by a Federal
 7 certification; and

8 “(B) each eligible unit of government shall
 9 provide technical assistance in obtaining the re-
 10 quired food safety training or certification, in
 11 accordance with subsection (f)(1)(E).

12 “(j) REPORTS.—An eligible unit of government that
 13 enters into a cooperative agreement under the Program
 14 shall submit to the Secretary, at such times as the Sec-
 15 retary determines to be appropriate, reports that shall in-
 16 clude data relating to the procurement and distribution
 17 of food under the cooperative agreement.

18 “(k) FUNDING.—

19 “(1) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of
 20 the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary
 21 shall use to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for
 22 fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

23 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
 24 addition to other funds and authorities available to
 25 the Secretary, in order to carry out activities under

1 this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
2 \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through
3 2029, to remain available until expended by the Sec-
4 retary.”.

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