

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4836

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for blended workforces to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program under certain conditions, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2026

Mr. RICKETTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for blended workforces to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program under certain conditions, 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 “SNAP Staffing Flexi-  
5 bility Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. SNAP STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.**

2 Section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
3 (7 U.S.C. 2020) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(y) STAFFING FLEXIBILITY.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection  
7 (e)(6)(B), a State agency may, subject to paragraph  
8 (2), hire 1 or more contractors, by contract, to un-  
9 dertake the certification described in subsection  
10 (e)(6)(A) or carry out any other function of the  
11 State agency under the supplemental nutrition as-  
12 sistance program, subject to paragraph (3).

13 “(2) CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HIRING.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency may  
15 hire 1 or more contractors under paragraph (1)  
16 if the State agency—

17 “(i) experiences an increase in appli-  
18 cations to the supplemental nutrition as-  
19 sistance program; or

20 “(ii) cannot timely process applica-  
21 tions to the supplemental nutrition assist-  
22 ance program, including due to—

23 “(I) a pandemic or other health  
24 emergency;

25 “(II) a seasonal workforce cycle;

1 “(III) a temporary staffing short-  
2 age; and

3 “(IV) weather or other natural  
4 disaster.

5 “(B) TEMPORARY STAFFING SHORTAGE.—  
6 In the case of a State agency hiring 1 or more  
7 contractors under paragraph (1) due to a tem-  
8 porary staffing shortage under subparagraph  
9 (A)(ii)(III), the authority of a State agency to  
10 conduct that hiring—

11 “(i) shall expire when the backlog of  
12 applications to the supplemental nutrition  
13 assistance program has been eliminated;  
14 and

15 “(ii) shall not impact any collective  
16 bargaining agreement or memorandum of  
17 understanding in effect between the State  
18 and employees of the State or a local gov-  
19 ernment of the State.

20 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(A) NO INCENTIVES FOR DELAY OR DE-  
22 NIAL.—A contract entered into by a State agen-  
23 cy under paragraph (1) shall not provide incen-  
24 tives for the State agency or contractor to delay  
25 eligibility determinations or deny eligibility for

1 individuals otherwise eligible for benefits under  
 2 the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

3 “(B) NO FINANCIAL INTEREST.—A State  
 4 agency may not hire a contractor under para-  
 5 graph (1) if the contractor has a direct or indi-  
 6 rect financial interest in any approved retail  
 7 store or wholesale food concern in the State.

8 “(4) ADMINISTRATION.—A State agency that  
 9 hires 1 or more contractors under paragraph (1)  
 10 shall ensure that—

11 “(A) the contracts are for a reasonable  
 12 cost and in accordance with the standard con-  
 13 tracting rules of the State agency;

14 “(B) hiring is consistent with the prin-  
 15 ciples described in section 900.603 of title 5,  
 16 Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
 17 regulation); and

18 “(C) the contractors—

19 “(i) are part of a blended government  
 20 workforce; and

21 “(ii) do not supplant existing merit-  
 22 based personnel in the State.

23 “(5) STATE AGENCY NOTIFICATION.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency that  
 25 hires 1 or more contractors under paragraph

1 (1) shall notify the Secretary of such hiring, in-  
2 cluding providing information or data indicating  
3 the applicable circumstance under paragraph  
4 (2) for carrying out that hiring.

5 “(B) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 10  
6 days after the date of receipt of a notification  
7 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall  
8 make publicly available on the website of the  
9 Department of Agriculture the notification and  
10 the accompanying information or data.

11 “(6) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall  
12 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,  
13 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on  
14 Agriculture of the House of Representatives an an-  
15 nual report that describes—

16 “(A) the measures taken by State agencies  
17 to address increases in applications to the sup-  
18 plemental nutrition assistance program;

19 “(B) reasons for the inability of State  
20 agencies to timely process those applications, as  
21 applicable;

22 “(C) the information or data submitted  
23 with each notification under paragraph (5)(A);  
24 and

1                   “(D) any recommended changes to the au-  
2                   thority of the Secretary to assist State and local  
3                   agencies in preparing for any future increase in  
4                   applications to the supplemental nutrition as-  
5                   sistance program or inability to timely process  
6                   those applications.”.

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