



2018 House and Senate Farm Bills: Nutrition Programs

Changes to Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

House

Expands the NSLP fresh fruit and vegetable program (42 U.S. Code § 1769a) to include “fresh, canned, dried, frozen or pureed” fruit and vegetables.

Senate

No provision.

Reauthorization of Farm Security and Rural Investment Act's Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions

House

Extends the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for schools and service institutions under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act through 2023.

Senate

Extends the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for schools and service institutions under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act through 2023.

Changes to SNAP

House

The most impactful change to nutrition programs in either Farm Bill are the changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the House bill. The House's bill would (among other changes):

- Establish work requirements for certain SNAP recipients
- Establishes an interstate data system to prevent duplicative enrollment
- Establish a pilot project to allow retailers to provide bonuses to participating SNAP households based on purchases of fruits, vegetables and milk
- Places restrictions on SNAP categorical eligibility
- Eliminate state flexibility for vehicle allowances

Senate

The Senate bill contains several changes to the SNAP program, including (among other changes):

- Amends employment and training provisions
- Provides for a process for retail stores to offer incentives to SNAP recipients for purchasing certain foods recommended by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Provides for a pilot program of income verification methods
- Establishes an interstate data system to prevent duplicative enrollment

Unlike the House bill, the CBO estimate did not note reductions in SNAP participation (and thus categorical eligibility for school meals) due to provisions in the Senate bill.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the work requirements contained in the bill would reduce average monthly participation by 1.2 million people. According to their estimates, 62% of those people live in households with children. This change could impact these children's categorical eligibility for free and reduced price school meals.

Changes to SNAP's categorical eligibility are expected to further reduce participation by 400,000, according to CBO.