

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. LUJÁN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

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 “Summer Meals Act
5 of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.**

7 (a) BETTER INTEGRATE SUMMER EDUCATION AND
8 SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM.—Section 13(a)(1)(A)(i) of

1 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
2 U.S.C. 1761(a)(1)(A)(i)) (relating to the definition of the
3 term “area in which poor economic conditions exist”) is
4 amended by striking “50 percent” each place it appears
5 and inserting “40 percent”.

6 (b) REDUCE RED TAPE FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PART-
7 NERSHIPS.—Section 13(a)(8) of the Richard B. Russell
8 National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)(8)) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking the paragraph designation and
11 heading and all that follows through “Except” and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(8) YEAR-ROUND MEAL SERVICE.—

14 “(A) SEAMLESS SUMMER OPTION FOR
15 SCHOOLS.—Except”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(B) YEAR-ROUND MEAL SERVICE FOR
18 OTHER SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.—Each service
19 institution (other than a service institution de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (A)), in addition to
21 being eligible for reimbursement for meals de-
22 scribed in subsection (b)(2) served during each
23 day of operation during the periods described in
24 subsection (c)(1), may be reimbursed for up to

1 1 meal and 1 snack per child served during
2 each day of operation during—

3 “(i) afterschool hours;

4 “(ii) weekends; and

5 “(iii) school holidays during the reg-
6 ular school calendar.”.

7 (c) IMPROVE NUTRITION IN UNDERSERVED, HARD-
8 TO-REACH AREAS.—Section 13(a) of the Richard B. Rus-
9 sell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)) is
10 amended—

11 (1) by striking paragraphs (9) and (10) and in-
12 serting the following:

13 “(9) IMPROVE NUTRITION IN UNDERSERVED,
14 HARD-TO-REACH AREAS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the avail-
16 ability of appropriations provided in advance in
17 an appropriations Act specifically for the pur-
18 pose of carrying out this paragraph, the Sec-
19 retary shall award competitive grants to service
20 institutions selected by the Secretary to in-
21 crease participation in the program by children
22 who lack the ability to access a congregate feed-
23 ing site through—

24 “(i) innovative approaches to limited
25 transportation;

1 “(ii) mobile meal trucks; and

2 “(iii) any other method or approach
3 that does not require children to access a
4 congregate feeding site.

5 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be selected to re-
6 ceive a grant under this paragraph, a service in-
7 stitution—

8 “(i) may be located in any State; and

9 “(ii) shall—

10 “(I) submit to the Secretary an
11 application at such time, in such man-
12 ner, and containing such information
13 as the Secretary may require;

14 “(II) meet criteria established by
15 the Secretary; and

16 “(III) agree to the terms and
17 conditions of the grant, as established
18 by the Secretary.

19 “(C) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants
20 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give
21 priority to service institutions that plan—

22 “(i) to serve both breakfast and lunch;

23 or

24 “(ii) to serve lunch, a snack, and din-
25 ner.

1 “(D) TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT.—A serv-
2 ice institution that receives a grant under sub-
3 paragraph (A)(i) may use grant funds to pro-
4 vide reimbursement for travel.

5 “(E) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
6 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
7 to the Secretary to make competitive grants
8 under this paragraph \$10,000,000 for each fis-
9 cal year.”; and

10 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12)
11 as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively.

12 (d) THIRD MEAL.—Section 13(b)(2) of the Richard
13 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
14 1761(b)(2)) is amended by striking “only serve lunch”
15 and all that follows through “migrant children may”.

16 (e) SUMMER MEAL SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT
17 AFTER EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.—Section 13 of
18 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
19 U.S.C. 1761) is amended by striking subsection (r) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(r) SUMMER MEAL SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT
22 AFTER EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS.—

23 “(1) DEFINITION OF AFFECTED AREA.—In this
24 subsection, the term ‘affected area’ means an area
25 for which—

1 “(A) the President has declared a major
2 disaster in accordance with section 401 of the
3 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
4 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170); or

5 “(B) the Governor of the State in which
6 the area is located has declared an emergency
7 or disaster under State law.

8 “(2) SUMMER MEAL REIMBURSEMENT.—In an
9 affected area, the Secretary shall, on request by a
10 State, reimburse a service institution for meals pro-
11 vided under this section to children that consume
12 the meals by a noncongregate method or approach.”.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
14 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act
15 (42 U.S.C. 1761) is amended by adding at the end the
16 following:

17 “(s) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
19 essary to carry out this section for the period of fiscal
20 years 2021 through 2026.”.