

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, 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 “Enabling Farmers to
5 Benefit from Processing Nutrition Programs Act of
6 2023”.

7 **SEC. 2. STREAMLINING APPLICATIONS FOR FARMERS.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED NUTRITION PROGRAM.—The term
2 “covered nutrition program” means—

3 (A) the supplemental nutrition assistance
4 program established under the Food and Nutri-
5 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

6 (B) the senior farmers’ market nutrition
7 program established under section 4402 of the
8 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of
9 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007);

10 (C) the special supplemental nutrition pro-
11 gram for women, infants, and children estab-
12 lished by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act
13 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the farm-
14 ers’ market nutrition program under that pro-
15 gram; and

16 (D) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incen-
17 tive Program established under section 4405 of
18 the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of
19 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517), as practicable with re-
20 spect to the activities carried out by the Sec-
21 retary under subsections (b) and (c).

22 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Agriculture.

24 (b) STREAMLINED APPLICATION PROCESS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
2 a streamlined application process—

3 (A) for direct marketing farmers and
4 ranchers to apply to be vendors under each of
5 the covered nutrition programs; and

6 (B) by—

7 (i) developing a single application that
8 a direct marketing farmer or rancher may
9 use to apply to each of the covered nutri-
10 tion programs; or

11 (ii) developing an information sharing
12 system that—

13 (I) shares the information of a
14 direct marketing farmer or rancher
15 who is approved as an authorized ven-
16 dor under a covered nutrition pro-
17 gram with each of the other covered
18 nutrition programs; and

19 (II) deems that direct marketing
20 farmer or rancher as a prequalified el-
21 igible vendor for those other covered
22 nutrition programs.

23 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
25 submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,

1 and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on
2 Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report
3 describing progress made in carrying out paragraph
4 (1).

5 (c) STREAMLINED PROCESSING OF BENEFITS.—The
6 Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for direct
7 marketing farmers and ranchers that are vendors under
8 any of the covered nutrition programs to process benefits
9 under those programs through the use of standardized
10 technology, such as a single piece of equipment or a mobile
11 application.

12 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR WIRELESS AND MOBILE EQUIPMENT**
13 **FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.**

14 Section 7(f)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
15 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(f)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
17 paragraph (D); and

18 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(C) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
21 ensure that equipment or systems made avail-
22 able to entities described in clauses (i) and (ii)
23 of subparagraph (B) by a State agency or an
24 implementing partner of a State agency is ap-
25 propriate for the entity, including, with respect

1 to farmers markets and other direct-to-con-
2 sumer markets, wireless or mobile processing
3 equipment and technology systems.”.