

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2504

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

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2023

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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 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.”.

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