

S 540

School Food Modernization Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Feb 24, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1077) (Feb 24, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/540>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

| Cosponsor                          | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]        | D · ND        |      | Feb 24, 2015 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]  | D · PA        |      | Jul 21, 2015 |
| Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]          | R · MS        |      | Sep 10, 2015 |
| Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]             | D · RI        |      | Oct 29, 2015 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]          | D · WA        |      | Nov 3, 2015  |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY        |      | Jul 14, 2016 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]       | D · HI        |      | Sep 21, 2016 |
| Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]         | D · CA        |      | Sep 27, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee                                      | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Feb 24, 2015 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship | Last Action   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 114 HR 3316 | Related bill | Nov 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. |

## School Food Modernization Act

Amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to direct the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue loan guarantees to local educational agencies (LEAs) or school food authorities administering or operating a school lunch program, tribal organizations, or consortia of such entities to finance the construction, remodeling, or expansion of infrastructure or the purchase of durable equipment that will facilitate their provision of healthy meals through the school lunch program.

Requires USDA to give a preference to applicants that demonstrate a substantial or disproportionate need for food service infrastructure or durable equipment. Prohibits a loan guarantee from covering more than 80% of a loan's principal.

Requires USDA to establish fees for the loan guarantee program that: (1) are sufficient to cover the federal government's administrative costs in operating the program, and (2) may be based on the risk premium associated with the particular loan or loan guarantee.

Directs USDA to award competitive matching grants to assist LEAs or school food authorities administering or operating a school lunch program, tribal organizations, or consortia of such entities in purchasing the durable equipment and infrastructure they need to serve healthier meals and improve food safety.

Requires USDA to give grant priority to applicants that: (1) have identified and are reasonably expected to meet an unmet local or community need, and (2) are located in states that have enacted funding measures to assist them with such purchases.

Prohibits such a grant from covering more than 80% of the total cost of the durable equipment and infrastructure.

Directs USDA to award competitive matching grants to experienced third-party training institutions to provide school food service personnel with the training and technical assistance they need to: (1) meet school lunch program nutrition standards, and (2) improve the efficacy and efficiency of the school lunch and breakfast programs.

Prohibits such a grant from covering more than 80% of the total cost of the training and technical assistance.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Feb 24, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 24, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1077)