

## HR 5915

### Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Social Welfare

**Introduced:** Feb 14, 2020

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. (Mar 5, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5915>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Feb 14, 2020
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Feb 14, 2020
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Feb 14, 2020
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Feb 14, 2020
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Feb 14, 2020
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Feb 25, 2020
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2020
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Feb 25, 2020
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Feb 26, 2020
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Feb 26, 2020
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2020
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Mar 3, 2020
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Mar 5, 2020

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 5, 2020
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 14, 2020

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Social Welfare

## Related Bills

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No related bills are listed.

### Summary (as of Feb 14, 2020)

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#### **Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2020**

This bill repeals a lifetime ban that prohibits individuals convicted of certain offenses related to the possession, use, or distribution of controlled substances from receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or assistance under programs funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grants. In addition, individuals who are incarcerated and scheduled to be released within 30 days shall qualify as individual households for purposes of SNAP eligibility. Under current law, unless specifically excepted, individuals residing in institutions do not constitute a household.

Existing state laws that removed or modified the federal ban at the state level shall have no force or effect.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 5, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
- **Feb 14, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 14, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Feb 14, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support.