

S 2192

Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 23, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Jun 23, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2192>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 21, 2022
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 14, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 23, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4077	Related bill	Jul 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2021

This bill revises the requirements for calculating Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

The bill increases the minimum SNAP benefit and requires benefits to be calculated using the value of a low-cost food plan. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must determine the requirements for the low-cost food plan, which is the diet required to feed a family of four, consisting of

- a man and a woman 19-50 years of age,
- a child 6-8 years of age, and
- a child 9-11 years of age.

USDA must (1) reevaluate and publish the market baskets of the plan by December 31, 2027, and every five years thereafter, based on current food prices, food composition data, consumption patterns, and dietary guidance; and (2) make adjustments to the plan to account for household size, changes in the cost of the diet, and the costs of food in specified areas.

The bill modifies the requirements for calculating household income to determine SNAP eligibility by (1) authorizing a standard medical expense deduction for households containing an elderly or disabled member, and (2) eliminating the cap on the excess shelter expense deduction.

The bill eliminates certain work requirements for SNAP. The requirements apply to able-bodied adults who are ages 18-49 and have no dependent children.

The bill allows Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in SNAP. Currently, the three territories receive block grants instead of participating in SNAP.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 23, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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