S 2663

School MEALS Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Agriculture and Food
Introduced: Aug 5, 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. (Aug 5, 2021)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2663

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]
Party: Democratic • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Aug 5, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 5, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5223	Related bill	**Sep 10, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

Summary (as of Aug 5, 2021)

School Modernization and Efficient Access to Lunches for Students Act of 2021 or the School MEALS Act of 2021

This bill establishes programs and revises requirements relating to direct certification processes for the National School Lunch Program. Direct certification allows schools to use data matching procedures to approve school meals without the need for applications for children who receive assistance under other programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program).

Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Agriculture to provide grants and technical assistance for states and tribal organizations to improve their direct certification processes, including with respect to children who receive assistance under a food distribution program on Indian reservations.

The bill also expands the time frame for schools to elect and gather eligibility data for the Community Eligibility Provision that permits schools in high-poverty areas to serve free meals to all enrolled students without the need for applications.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 5, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 5, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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