

S 2667

Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Aug 5, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Aug 5, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2667>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Aug 5, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 5, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6492	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
117 HR 2837	Identical bill	Jul 1, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2021

This bill repeals a lifetime ban that prohibits individuals convicted of certain offenses related to the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance from receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or assistance under programs funded by Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants. Any state law that imposes conditions on eligibility for SNAP benefits or TANF assistance based on an individual's conviction of such an offense shall have no force or effect.

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.

Actions Timeline

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