

HR 2837

Making Essentials Available and Lawful (MEAL) Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Apr 26, 2021

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations. (Jul 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2837>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (41 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Dean, Madeleine [D-PA-4]	D · PA		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Horsford, Steven [D-NV-4]	D · NV		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Scanlon, Mary Gay [D-PA-5]	D · PA		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Apr 26, 2021
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-3]	D · PA		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Ross, Deborah K. [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Apr 28, 2021
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		May 28, 2021
Rep. Case, Ed [D-HI-1]	D · HI		May 28, 2021
Rep. Strickland, Marilyn [D-WA-10]	D · WA		May 28, 2021
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jun 4, 2021
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Jun 4, 2021
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jun 16, 2021
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jun 16, 2021
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jun 16, 2021
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Jun 30, 2021
Rep. Trahan, Lori [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jun 30, 2021
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Dec 14, 2021
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jan 12, 2022
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Apr 1, 2022
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Sep 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 1, 2021
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 26, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2667	Identical bill	Aug 5, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of Apr 26, 2021)

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

- **Jul 1, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.
- **Apr 26, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 26, 2021:** 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.
- **Apr 26, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support.