

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.