

S 313

Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 12, 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. (Feb 12, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/313>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 12, 2021
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 24, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Mar 14, 2022
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 27, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 12, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1413	Identical bill	Apr 8, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

Summary (as of Feb 12, 2021)

Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2021

This bill revises the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program) to make the online redemption of benefits, including the acceptance of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards, more widely available by requiring the implementation of online SNAP purchasing in every state and providing funding for an online redemption portal and a technical assistance center.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) must award on a competitive basis one or more contracts to develop an EBT Online Redemption Portal to (1) allow program participants to use online or mobile electronic benefits transactions to purchase program foods from, and make online payments to, authorized program retailers under SNAP; and (2) facilitate food purchase delivery for program participants using such electronic benefits transactions.

The Food and Nutrition Service of USDA must award competitive grants or enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit entities to establish a SNAP Online Purchasing Technical Assistance Center to provide state agencies, authorized program retailers, and program participants information on and technical assistance with accepting SNAP benefits through online transactions and use of the portal. In providing technical assistance, the center must give priority to entities that are small and limited-resource retailers.

The bill provides funding for both the online redemption portal and the technical assistance center.

USDA must maintain on its website a publicly available listing, organized and searchable by region, locality, and state, of all approved retail food stores accepting benefits from recipients of SNAP, including through online transactions.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 12, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 12, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.