

S 3842

21st Century WIC Act of 2026

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 11, 2026

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 11, 2026)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/3842>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]

Party: Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Feb 11, 2026 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee | Senate | Referred To | Feb 11, 2026 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

21st Century WIC Act of 2026

This bill permanently allows individuals to remotely certify their eligibility for, and receive benefits through, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Specifically, the bill requires that a state agency allow an individual seeking a WIC certification, recertification, or a nutritional risk evaluation to do so by phone or through video teleconference, in addition to the in-person option.

A state agency has 90 days to collect data for a nutritional risk evaluation for a remotely certified individual. Further, a state agency may consider an applicant who meets the income eligibility standards to be temporarily eligible on an interim basis to participate in the program and may certify the individual for immediate participation without waiting for a nutritional risk evaluation.

The bill also allows states to provide benefits on WIC electronic benefit transfer cards through mail or remote issuance instead of requiring participants to pick up or reload benefits in person at a WIC office.

Further, the Department of Agriculture must report to Congress about the use of remote technologies and other digital tools in the WIC program.

Currently, individuals are generally required to be physically present to certify their WIC eligibility and receive benefits, with exceptions. The Food and Nutrition Service has temporarily waived these requirements and allowed remote certification and benefits using authorities that were originally provided by laws that were enacted to address COVID-19.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 11, 2026:** Introduced in Senate
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