

# **The Stop Child Summer Hunger Act of 2018**

**Introduced by Senator Patty Murray**

## SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM

- Amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

### (A) DEFINITIONS

- “Eligible household” means a household that includes one or more children who are eligible to receive free or reduced priced school lunch or breakfast.
- “Summer EBT card” means an electronic benefits transfer card that is issued to an eligible household and may only be used for food purchases.

### (B) PROGRAM

- Establishes a program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide eligible households with EBT cards for the purpose of providing access to food for children during the summer months.
- The purpose of the program is to provide access to food for children during the summer months to reduce or eliminate food insecurity and hunger of children, and to improve the nutritional status of children.

### (C) USE

- EBT cards provided under this program may only be used to purchase food from retail food stores that have been approved for participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

### (D) AMOUNT

- Each EBT card issued under this program shall be in the amount of \$150 for the calendar year 2019, and for each subsequent year, the amount will be adjusted to reflect changes in reimbursement rates for school meals under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

#### (E) TIMING

- EBT cards shall be issued at the end of the regular school year.

#### (F) FUNDING

- The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.
- The Secretary of Agriculture shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out this section the funds transferred without further appropriation.

#### (G) REGULATIONS

- USDA shall issue regulations to carry out this program by October 1, 2018.
- These regulations shall require:
  - That children shall be eligible to participate and shall be enrolled into the summer EBT program without further application if the children are enrolled to participate in the free or reduced price lunch or breakfast programs.
  - That local educational agencies shall provide information, including eligibility rules and application information, to families of children enrolled in free or reduced price lunch or breakfast programs. To the maximum extent practicable, local education agencies shall also provide information about the summer EBT program to the families of all children enrolled in the schools of the local educational agency. Additionally, they, in coordination with a State's Nutrition Education State Plan, shall provide information to assist households receiving Summer EBT cards in making healthy food choices and maximizing resources.
- The Secretary of Agriculture shall allow alternative plans for the timing of issuance of the EBT cards where the school year does not include a typical summer break, if the Secretary determines that the alternative plan does not increase or decrease federal costs.