

Amendment Offered by Rep. Darren Soto

Amendment Description: This amendment sets out a process to enable Puerto Rico to participate as a state in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as detailed in H.R. 253, the Puerto Rico Nutrition Assistance Fairness Act. Under current law, a state receives SNAP funding based on the number of participating households in the state whereas Puerto Rico receives a block grant to fund its nutrition assistance program.

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8467
OFFERED BY MR. SOTO OF FLORIDA

Section 4124 is amended by striking “Section” and inserting the following:

1 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section

At the end of section 4124, as so amended, add the following:

2 (b) **AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION**
3 **ACT OF 2008.**—

4 (1) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 3 of the Food and
5 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (A) in subsection (r) by inserting “Puerto
8 Rico,” after “Guam,” and

9 (B) in subsection (u)(2) by inserting “,
10 Puerto Rico,” after “Hawaii”.

11 (2) **ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.**—Section 5 of the
12 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is
13 amended—

14 (A) in subsection (b) by inserting “Puerto
15 Rico,” after “Guam,”

1 (B) in subsection (c)(1) by striking “and
2 Guam” and inserting “Guam, and Puerto
3 Rico”, and

4 (C) in subsection (e)—

5 (i) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting
6 “Puerto Rico,” after “Hawaii,” each place
7 it appears, and

8 (ii) in paragraph (6)(B) by inserting
9 “Puerto Rico,” after “Guam,”.

10 (c) SUBMISSION OF PLAN OF OPERATION; TECH-
11 NICAL ASSISTANCE; DETERMINATION AND CERTIFI-
12 CATION BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—

13 (1) SUBMISSION OF PLAN OF OPERATION.—On
14 designating an agency of the kind described in sec-
15 tion 3(s)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
16 (7 U.S.C. 2012(s)(1)), the Commonwealth of Puerto
17 Rico shall have 60 days to submit to the Secretary
18 of Agriculture (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
19 retary”) its plan of operation, including a plan to
20 transition to the supplemental nutrition assistance
21 program under section 4(a) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
22 2013(a)) as a request to participate in the supple-
23 mental nutrition assistance program under of the
24 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
25 seq.).

1 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Within the 60-
2 day period specified in paragraph (1) and upon re-
3 quest from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
4 Secretary shall provide appropriate training and
5 technical assistance to enable the Commonwealth of
6 Puerto Rico to formulate a plan of operation de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1).

8 (3) DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY OF
9 AGRICULTURE.—Not later than 180 days after re-
10 ceiving a plan of operation described in paragraph
11 (1), the Secretary shall approve if such plan satisfies
12 the requirements for a supplemental nutrition assist-
13 ance program State plan in accordance with sub-
14 sections (d) and (e) of section 11 of the Food and
15 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020). If the Sec-
16 retary does not approve such plan, the Secretary
17 shall provide, not later than 30 days after dis-
18 approval, a statement that specifies each of the re-
19 quirements that were not satisfied by such plan.

20 (4) CERTIFICATION BY THE SECRETARY OF AG-
21 RICULTURE.—If the Secretary approves the plan
22 submitted by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
23 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to
24 the Congress, not later than 60 days thereafter, a
25 certification that the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

1 qualifies to participate in the supplemental nutrition
2 assistance program as a State as defined in section
3 3(r) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
4 U.S.C. 2012(r)).

5 (d) TRANSITION FROM THE CONSOLIDATED BLOCK
6 GRANT FOR PUERTO RICO.—

7 (1) COVERED PERIOD.—The Secretary may
8 continue to implement the then most recent ap-
9 proved consolidated block grant specified in section
10 19(b)(1)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
11 (7 U.S.C. 2028(b)(1)(A)) for a period ending no
12 later than 5 years after the effective date of the
13 amendments made by this Act, or on the date the
14 Secretary determines that the Commonwealth of
15 Puerto Rico no longer needs to operate the consoli-
16 dated block grant to complete the transition de-
17 scribed in subsection (c)(1), whichever occurs first.

18 (2) REPORT.—For each year a plan is contin-
19 ued under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit
20 to the Congress an annual report on the operation
21 of such plan. The Secretary shall include in such re-
22 port information related to increases in funding that
23 are required to accommodate the transition of the
24 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from the receipt of

1 block grant payments to the implementation of sup-
2 plemental nutrition assistance program.

3 (e) CONSOLIDATED BLOCK GRANT FOR PUERTO
4 RICO AND AMERICAN SAMOA.—Section 19 of the Food
5 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)(A) by inserting “until
8 the end of the period described in section (d)(1)
9 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act
10 of 2024,” after “(A)”,

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (I) in clause (i) by striking
14 “and” at the end, and

15 (II) in clause (ii)—

16 (aa) by inserting “, and end-
17 ing at the end of the period de-
18 scribed in section 4124(d)(1) of
19 the Farm, Food, and National
20 Security Act of 2024” after
21 “thereafter”,

22 (bb) by striking the period
23 at the end and inserting “; and”,
24 and

1 (cc) by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 “(iii) subject to the availability of ap-
4 propriations under section 18(a), for each
5 fiscal year beginning after the end of the
6 period described in section 4124(d)(1) of
7 the Farm, Food, and National Security
8 Act of 2024, 0.4 percent of the aggregate
9 amount specified in clause (i) and adjusted
10 under clause (ii), as further adjusted by
11 the percentage by which the thrifty food
12 plan has been adjusted under section
13 3(u)(4) between June 30 of the penul-
14 timate fiscal year preceding such effective
15 date and June 30 of the fiscal year for
16 which the adjustment is made under this
17 clause.”,

18 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(i) by insert-
19 ing “ending at the end of the period de-
20 scribed in section 4124(d)(1) of the Farm,
21 Food, and National Security Act of 2024”
22 after “thereafter”, and

23 (iii) in subparagraph (C)—

24 (I) by striking “For” and insert-
25 ing the following:

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“(i) For”,

(II) by inserting “ending at the end of the period described in section 4124(d)(1) of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024” after “thereafter”, and

(III) by adding at the end, the following:

“(ii) For each fiscal year beginning after the end of the period described in section 4124(d)(1) of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, the Secretary shall use 100 percent of the funds made available under subparagraph (A) for payment to American Samoa to pay 100 percent of the expenditures by American Samoa for a nutrition assistance program extended under section 601(c) of Public Law 96–597 (48 U.S.C. 1469d(c)).”, and (C) in paragraph (3) by striking “year,” and inserting “year ending at the end of the period described in section 4124(d)(1) of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, and” after “year”, and

1 (2) in subsection (b)(1)(A) by inserting “and
2 ending at the end of the period described in section
3 4124(d)(1) of the Farm, Food, and National Secu-
4 rity Act of 2024” after “year” the first place it ap-
5 pears.

6 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
8 such sums as may be necessary until the end of the period
9 described in subsection (d)(1).

10 (g) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2), this section shall take effect on the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS.—The
15 amendments made by this section shall take effect
16 on October 1 of the 1st fiscal year that begins 1
17 year after the Secretary submits to Congress the
18 certification described in subsection (c)(4).

