

## 2026 Proposed Farm Bill

### SNAP Provisions – Summary

*Last Updated: February 18, 2026*

**Background:** On February 13, 2026, the House Committee on Agriculture released the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. Chairman Thompson announced that the Committee will begin markup of the legislation on February 23, 2026. Should the bill advance out of Committee, it would then need to be voted on by the full House of Representatives, and then voted on in the Senate.

The release outlines proposed SNAP policy and administrative updates included in the farm bill and is accompanied by the full legislative [text](#), an [overview](#), and a [title-by-title summary](#). Below is a summary of the SNAP provisions in this latest Farm Bill draft.

To learn more about prior APHSA positions and responses to the Farm Bill, read our [2023 Farm Bill Priorities](#) and [response](#) to the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. Please contact [Chloe Green](#), Assistant Director, Policy at APHSA with any questions.

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### Section 4101: SNAP — Declaration of Policy

- Expands the statutory purpose of SNAP to include improving health and supporting the prevention of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer as well as disability, premature death, unsustainable health care costs, and factors that undermine military readiness.

### Section 4102: Prohibited Fees.

- Extends through 2031 the prohibition on states charging fees for Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) transactions.

### Section 4103: SNAP Staffing Flexibility

- Expands non-merit staffing authority for SNAP certification or other administrative functions.
  - Allows use of this authority when states are unable to timely process applications due to emergencies, seasonal workforce cycles, staffing shortages, or natural disasters; or
  - During periods of elevated payment error rates (6 percent or higher, based on the most recent available USDA data); or
  - When states experience significant increases in SNAP application volume.

### Sec. 4104: Updates to Administrative Processes for SNAP Retailers

- Changes retailer participation rules so that stores denied participation must be denied twice in three years before being barred from reapplying for six months.

### Section 4105: Report on All Identified Payment Errors

- Requires USDA to include all identified SNAP payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual Payment Error Rate report.
- Clarifies that this reporting requirement does not change existing tolerance thresholds



#### Section 4106: Authorization of Appropriations

- Extends authorization for SNAP appropriations under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 through 2031.

#### Section 4107: Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking

- Extends authorization for appropriations related to preventing trafficking in SNAP benefits through 2031.

#### Section 4108: EBT Card Security Regulations

- Requires USDA to propose enhanced security regulations for EBT cards within six months of enactment.

#### Section 4109: Report on SNAP Administrative Costs

- Requires U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine variation in state SNAP administrative costs and identify contributing cost drivers.
- Requires this to occur not more than 12 months after the date of enactment.
- Calls for recommendations to improve federal oversight of SNAP administrative expenses.

#### Section 4110: Animal Protein an Eligible Food

- Adds “animal protein” to the list of foods eligible for SNAP incentives.

#### Section 4111: SNAP Online Purchasing Program

- Transitions SNAP online purchasing from pilot or demonstration status to a permanent nationwide program.
- Requires USDA to issue regulations governing program integrity, consumer protections, and equitable access, including in rural areas.
- Requires USDA to establish a formal stakeholder consultation process and requires reporting to Congress on findings and recommendations.



### Section 4112: Emergency Food Assistance Programs

- Extends infrastructure grant authority and commodity availability for emergency food assistance programs through 2031.

### Section 4113: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

- Extends the Traditional and Locally- and Regionally- Grown Food Fund within FDPIR through 2031.

