

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**119–22**

**OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER OF WASHINGTON**

At the end of subtitle A, of title IV, add the following:

1 **SEC. 4114. EXPANDING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS FROM**  
2 **LOCAL FARMERS.**

3 (a) PURCHASE OF PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL PROD-  
4 UCTS.—Section 203D of the Emergency Food Assistance  
5 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7507) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a) by inserting “or that State  
7 agencies purchase using funds made available under  
8 subsection (d),” after “distribution,”

9 (2) in subsection (b) by inserting “or pur-  
10 chased” after “donated”,

11 (3) by striking subsection (c),

12 (4) in subsection (d)—

13 (A) by striking “(d)” and inserting “(e)”,

14 and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A) by striking  
17 “subparagraphs (B) and (C)” and insert-  
18 ing “subparagraph (B)”,

1 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B), and  
2 (iii) by redesignating subparagraph  
3 (C) as subparagraph (B), and  
4 (5) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(d) PROJECTS FOR STATES TO PURCHASE CERTAIN  
7 COMMODITIES FROM ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) PROJECT.—The term ‘project’ means  
10 the purchase of priority agricultural products  
11 from eligible entities, and the distribution of  
12 those products to needy persons through emer-  
13 gency feeding organizations under subsection  
14 (a).

15 “(B) PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL PROD-  
16 UCT.—The term ‘priority agricultural product’  
17 means a fruit, vegetable, dairy, meat, seafood,  
18 grain, poultry, or other commodity food prod-  
19 uct, available for sale by eligible entities and  
20 that States determine to be appropriate for dis-  
21 tribution through emergency feeding organiza-  
22 tions and culturally or religiously relevant to  
23 the local communities that will distribute the  
24 products.

1           “(C) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-  
2           ble entity’ means any of the following small  
3           businesses that is a grower, packer, processor,  
4           distributor, food-hub, or a cooperative, and  
5           that—

6                   “(i) is—

7                           “(I)   underserved,   including  
8                           women-owned or veteran-owned; or

9                           “(II) composed of, or sources ag-  
10                          ricultural products from, beginning  
11                          farmers, or small or mid-sized farms  
12                          that are structured as family farms;

13                       “(ii) can deliver the priority agricul-  
14                       tural products to emergency feeding orga-  
15                       nizations selected by the State as being  
16                       most in need of the products; and

17                       “(iii) that is committed to serving  
18                       communities in need and forging strong re-  
19                       lationships with emergency feeding organi-  
20                       zations, public agencies, and Tribal govern-  
21                       ments through a project, as determined by  
22                       the State.

23           “(2) FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PROJECTS.—

24                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
25                       graph (C) and paragraph (4), using funds made

1 available under paragraph (5), the Secretary  
2 may provide funds to States to pay for the costs  
3 of carrying out a project.

4 “(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days  
5 after the effective date of this subsection, the  
6 Secretary shall issue guidance to States—

7 “(i) to carry out this section;

8 “(ii) to inform States of their alloca-  
9 tions under paragraph (3);

10 “(iii) to encourage States to partner  
11 with a wide range of emergency feeding or-  
12 ganizations to reach communities in need,  
13 including those disproportionately impacted  
14 by food insecurity; and

15 “(iv) to inform States of public re-  
16 porting requirements and minimum project  
17 performance standards, as developed by  
18 the Secretary.

19 “(C) ALLOCATION.—

20 “(i) ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOCATION.—  
21 The Secretary shall allocate funds made  
22 available under paragraph (5) based on the  
23 formula in effect under section 214(a),  
24 among States that submit a State plan of  
25 operation for a project that includes—

1                   “(I) a list of eligible entities and  
2                   emergency feeding organizations in  
3                   the State that will operate the project  
4                   in partnership with the State agency;

5                   “(II) at the option of the State,  
6                   a list of priority agricultural products  
7                   located in the State that are available  
8                   for purchase and transport to emer-  
9                   gency feeding organizations to identify  
10                  which foods may be included in the  
11                  project;

12                  “(III) a time line of when the  
13                  project will begin operating; and

14                  “(IV) a plan to comply with the  
15                  standards set out in subparagraph  
16                  (B)(iv).

17                  “(ii) REALLOCATION.—If the Sec-  
18                  retary determines that a State will not ex-  
19                  pend all the funds allocated to the State  
20                  under clause (i), the Secretary shall reallo-  
21                  cate the unexpended funds to other eligible  
22                  States.

23                  “(iii) REPORT.—Each State that re-  
24                  ceives funds allocated under this subpara-  
25                  graph shall submit to the Secretary finan-

1                   cial reports on a regular basis describing  
2                   the use of the funds.

3                   “(3) PROJECT PURPOSES.—A State may only  
4                   use Federal funds received under paragraph (2) for  
5                   a project the purposes of which are—

6                   “(A) to maintain and improve food and ag-  
7                   ricultural supply chain resiliency;

8                   “(B) to provide food to individuals in need;  
9                   and

10                  “(C) to build relationships between the  
11                  State, eligible entities and emergency feeding  
12                  organizations through the purchase of food.

13                  “(4) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

14                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—A State agency that  
15                  carries out a project using Federal funds re-  
16                  ceived under this subsection may enter into co-  
17                  operative agreements with State agencies of  
18                  other States under section 203B(d) to maximize  
19                  the use of commodities purchased under the  
20                  project.

21                  “(B) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 15  
22                  days after entering into a cooperative agree-  
23                  ment under clause (i), a State agency shall sub-  
24                  mit such agreement to the Secretary.

1           “(5) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be ap-  
2           propriated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-  
3           section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027  
4           through 2031, to remain available until the end of  
5           the respective subsequent fiscal year.

6           “(6) REPORTING.—Not later than 4 years after  
7           the effective date of this subsection, the Secretary  
8           shall submit to the Committee of Agriculture of the  
9           House of Representatives and the Committee on Ag-  
10          riculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a  
11          report containing—

12                   “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
13                   this subsection in providing nutritious food to  
14                   individuals in need, improving agricultural sup-  
15                   ply chain resiliency, and expanding economic  
16                   opportunity for eligible entities; and

17                   “(B) recommendations for the implementa-  
18                   tion of this subsection to improve nutrition out-  
19                   comes.”.

20          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 202A(b)(5)  
21          of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C.  
22          7503(b)(5)) is amended by striking “donated commodities  
23          received under section 203D(d)” and inserting “commod-  
24          ities donated under subsection (c), or purchased under  
25          subsection (d), of section 203D”.

1 (c) INTRADEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION.—

2 (1) WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary of Agri-  
3 culture shall create a cross-agency working group  
4 within the office of the Secretary to work with rel-  
5 evant agencies and organizations of the Department  
6 of Agriculture and with stakeholders to review and  
7 reconsider how all Department procurement of pri-  
8 ority agricultural products can be directed to sup-  
9 port a wider range of agricultural producers and ag-  
10 ricultural product distributors in a manner that  
11 meets the Department’s overarching goals of nutri-  
12 tion security, greater access to culturally or reli-  
13 giously relevant foods for individuals and house-  
14 holds, resilient local and regional food systems, rural  
15 job creation, and reversal of the concentration of the  
16 ownership of the resources for the production and  
17 distribution of agricultural products.

18 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The working group es-  
19 tablished under subsection (a) shall submit to the  
20 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-  
21 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-  
22 trition, and Forestry of the Senate, an annual report  
23 describing the working group’s accomplishments,  
24 suggestions, and recommendations for administrative

- 1 actions and proposed legislation relating to the ac-
- 2 tivities of such group under such subsection.

