

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8888

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 11, 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Food Security, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Food Security for All
3 Veterans Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
5 **AFFAIRS OFFICE OF FOOD SECURITY.**

6 Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
7 by adding at the end the following new section (and con-
8 forming the table of sections at the beginning of such
9 chapter accordingly):

10 **“§ 325. Office of Food Security**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department
12 an office to be known as the ‘Office of Food Security’.
13 There is at the head of the Office a Director, which shall
14 be a career position.

15 “(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—(1) The Director of the Of-
16 fice of Food Security shall carry out the following respon-
17 sibilities:

18 “(A) To provide information to veterans con-
19 cerning the availability of, and eligibility require-
20 ments for Federal nutrition assistance programs.

21 “(B) To collaborate with other program offices
22 of the Department, including the Homeless Pro-
23 grams Office and the Office of Tribal Government
24 Relations, to develop and implement policies and
25 procedures to identify and treat veterans at-risk or
26 experiencing food insecurity.

1 “(C) To collaborate with the Secretary of Agri-
2 culture and the Secretary of Defense on food insecur-
3 ity among veterans, including by collaborating with
4 the Secretaries to develop materials related to food
5 insecurity for the Transition Assistance Program
6 curriculum and other transition-related resources.

7 “(D) To develop and provide training, including
8 training that may count towards continuing edu-
9 cation or licensure requirements, for social workers,
10 dietitians, chaplains, and other clinicians on how to
11 assist veterans with enrollment in Federal nutrition
12 assistance programs, including the supplemental nu-
13 trition assistance program and the special supple-
14 mental nutrition program for women, infants, and
15 children established by section 17 of the Child Nu-
16 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

17 “(E) To issue guidance to Department medical
18 centers on how to collaborate with their State and
19 local offices administering the supplemental nutri-
20 tion assistance program.

21 “(2) In carrying out the responsibilities under para-
22 graph (1), the Director shall consult with and provide
23 technical assistance to the heads of other Federal depart-
24 ments and agencies, including the Department of Agri-

1 culture, Department of Defense, Department of Interior,
2 and Department of Labor.

3 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON FOOD INSECURITY.—The
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the
5 Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit to the Committees
6 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
7 resentatives an annual report on veteran food insecurity.
8 Each such report shall include data on the following:

9 “(1) The socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial char-
10 acteristics of veterans experiencing food insecurity,
11 disaggregated by State in which the veteran is lo-
12 cated.

13 “(2) Native American veterans experiencing
14 food insecurity.

15 “(3) Specific interventions for veterans who
16 screen positive for food insecurity.

17 “(4) Eligibility screenings for participation in
18 the supplemental nutrition assistance program com-
19 pleted by personnel of the Department of Veterans
20 Affairs.

21 “(5) The number of applications for participa-
22 tion in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
23 gram completed with assistance from personnel of
24 the Department.

1 “(6) Changes, as a result of participation in the
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program, in the
3 number of food insecure veteran households.

4 “(7) Coordination efforts between State agen-
5 cies and Department facilities located in that State
6 regarding outreach to veterans to participate in the
7 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

8 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) The terms ‘Native American’ and ‘Native
10 American veteran’ have the meanings given those
11 terms in section 3765 of this title.

12 “(2) The terms ‘State agency’ and ‘supple-
13 mental nutrition assistance program’ have the mean-
14 ings given those terms in section 3 of the Food and
15 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).”.

16 **SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

17 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
18 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
19 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
20 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
21 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
22 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
2 vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives September 29,
2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.