



2018 Farm Bill Introduced in the House

Yesterday, Thursday, April 12, House Agriculture Committee Chairman K. Michael Conaway (R-TX) introduced H.R. 2 – [The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018](#) (Farm Bill). Title IV of the bill (beginning on page 223) makes significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), particularly in the areas of work requirements, program modernization, program integrity, and promoting health foods.

Some major changes include ending the treatment of Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) as a separate population from other work-capable adults. The bill establishes a work requirement for all work-capable adults (aged 18-59), with the expected exemptions for specific groups such as people with disabilities or caretakers of children under age six. Qualifying work activities are expanded and the number of required weekly hours of participation will increase from 20 to 25 by fiscal year 2026. The bill requires that states offer minimum services in employment and training for all participants who are subject to work requirements. It also increases SNAP Employment & Training funds and provides states with a two-year transition period to allow them to increase their capacity in program delivery.

In the area of program integrity, the bill makes changes such as: eliminating broad-based categorical eligibility while increasing the resource limit; requiring states to report data to and use a nation-wide duplicative enrollment database; reducing the tolerance level for payment errors to \$0; and allowing states to retain a greater percentage of recovered funds.

Some other notable changes in the bill include: direct grant funding toward coordinating more simplified SNAP application and eligibility determination systems; mandating regular re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP); and allowing for periodic review of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) regulations taking evolving technology into account.

The House Agriculture Committee created a site dedicated to the Farm Bill; [here](#) you can find the full bill text, fact sheets, and more.