

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8888

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Food Security for All
5 Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
7 **AFFAIRS OFFICE OF FOOD SECURITY.**

8 Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
9 by adding at the end the following new section (and con-

1 forming the table of sections at the beginning of such
2 chapter accordingly):

3 **“§ 325. Office of Food Security**

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

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

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

14 “(B) To collaborate with other program offices
15 of the Department, including the Homeless Pro-
16 grams Office and the Office of Tribal Government
17 Relations, to develop and implement policies and
18 procedures to identify and treat veterans at-risk or
19 experiencing food insecurity.

20 “(C) To collaborate with the Secretary of Agri-
21 culture and the Secretary of Defense on food insecu-
22 rity among veterans, including by collaborating with
23 the Secretaries to develop materials related to food
24 insecurity for the Transition Assistance Program
25 curriculum and other transition-related resources.

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

11 “(E) To issue guidance to Department medical
12 centers on how to collaborate with their State and
13 local offices administering the supplemental nutri-
14 tion assistance program.

15 “(2) In carrying out the responsibilities under para-
16 graph (1), the Director shall consult with and provide
17 technical assistance to the heads of other Federal depart-
18 ments and agencies, including the Department of Agri-
19 culture, Department of Defense, Department of the Inte-
20 rior, and Department of Labor.

21 “(c) ANNUAL REPORT ON FOOD INSECURITY.—The
22 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the
23 Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit to the Committees
24 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-

1 representatives an annual report on veteran food insecurity.

2 Each such report shall include data on the following:

3 “(1) The socioeconomic and racial characteris-
4 tics of veterans experiencing food insecurity,
5 disaggregated by State in which the veteran is lo-
6 cated, racial or ethnic group, gender, gender iden-
7 tity, and sexual orientation.

8 “(2) Native American veterans experiencing
9 food insecurity.

10 “(3) Specific interventions for veterans who
11 screen positive for food insecurity.

12 “(4) Eligibility screenings for participation in
13 the supplemental nutrition assistance program com-
14 pleted by personnel of the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs.

16 “(5) The number of applications for participa-
17 tion in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
18 gram completed with assistance from personnel of
19 the Department.

20 “(6) Changes, as a result of participation in the
21 supplemental nutrition assistance program, in the
22 number of food insecure veteran households.

23 “(7) Coordination efforts between State agen-
24 cies and Department facilities located in that State

1 regarding outreach to veterans to participate in the
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

3 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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