

**Appendix H3. Richard B. Russell National School
Lunch Act Amended Through February 2014
Section 28**

to establish and maintain the information clearinghouse, \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 and 1996, \$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$100,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004, and \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.

[SEC. 27.²³ [42 U.S.C. 1769h] ACCOMMODATION OF THE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.]

SEC. 28. [42 U.S.C. 1769i] PROGRAM EVALUATION.

(a) **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of funds made available under paragraph (3), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, may conduct annual national performance assessments of the meal programs under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

(2) **COMPONENTS.**—In conducting an assessment, the Secretary may assess—

(A) the cost of producing meals and meal supplements under the programs described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the nutrient profile of meals, and status of menu planning practices, under the programs.

(3) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(b) **CERTIFICATION IMPROVEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of funds made available under paragraph (5), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall conduct a study of the feasibility of improving the certification process used for the school lunch program established under this Act.

(2) **PILOT PROJECTS.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may conduct pilot projects to improve the certification process used for the school lunch program.

(3) **COMPONENTS.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall examine the use of—

(A) other income reporting systems;

(B) an integrated benefit eligibility determination process managed by a single agency;

(C) income or program participation data gathered by State or local agencies; and

(D) other options determined by the Secretary.

(4) **WAIVERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary may waive such provisions of this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) **PROVISIONS.**—The protections of section 9(b)(6) shall apply to any study or pilot project carried out under this subsection.

²³ Sec. 27 repealed by sec. 441(a)(14) of P.L. 111-296, 124 Stat. 3264, Dec. 13, 2010.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection such sums as are necessary.

(c) COOPERATION WITH PROGRAM RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—States, State educational agencies, local educational agencies, schools, institutions, facilities, and contractors participating in programs authorized under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) shall cooperate with officials and contractors acting on behalf of the Secretary, in the conduct of evaluations and studies under those Acts.

SEC. 29. [42 U.S.C. 1769j] ENSURING SAFETY OF SCHOOL MEALS.

(a) FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall—

(1) in consultation with the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, develop guidelines to determine the circumstances under which it is appropriate for the Secretary to institute an administrative hold on suspect foods purchased by the Secretary that are being used in school meal programs under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

(2) work with States to explore ways for the States to increase the timeliness of notification of food recalls to schools and school food authorities;

(3) improve the timeliness and completeness of direct communication between the Food and Nutrition Service and States about holds and recalls, such as through the commodity alert system of the Food and Nutrition Service; and

(4) establish a timeframe to improve the commodity hold and recall procedures of the Department of Agriculture to address the role of processors and determine the involvement of distributors with processed products that may contain recalled ingredients, to facilitate the provision of more timely and complete information to schools.

(b) FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, shall revise the procedures of the Food Safety and Inspection Service to ensure that schools are included in effectiveness checks.