
Revised January 14, 2008

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF NUTRITION PROVISIONS IN HOUSE- AND SENATE-PASSED FARM BILLS

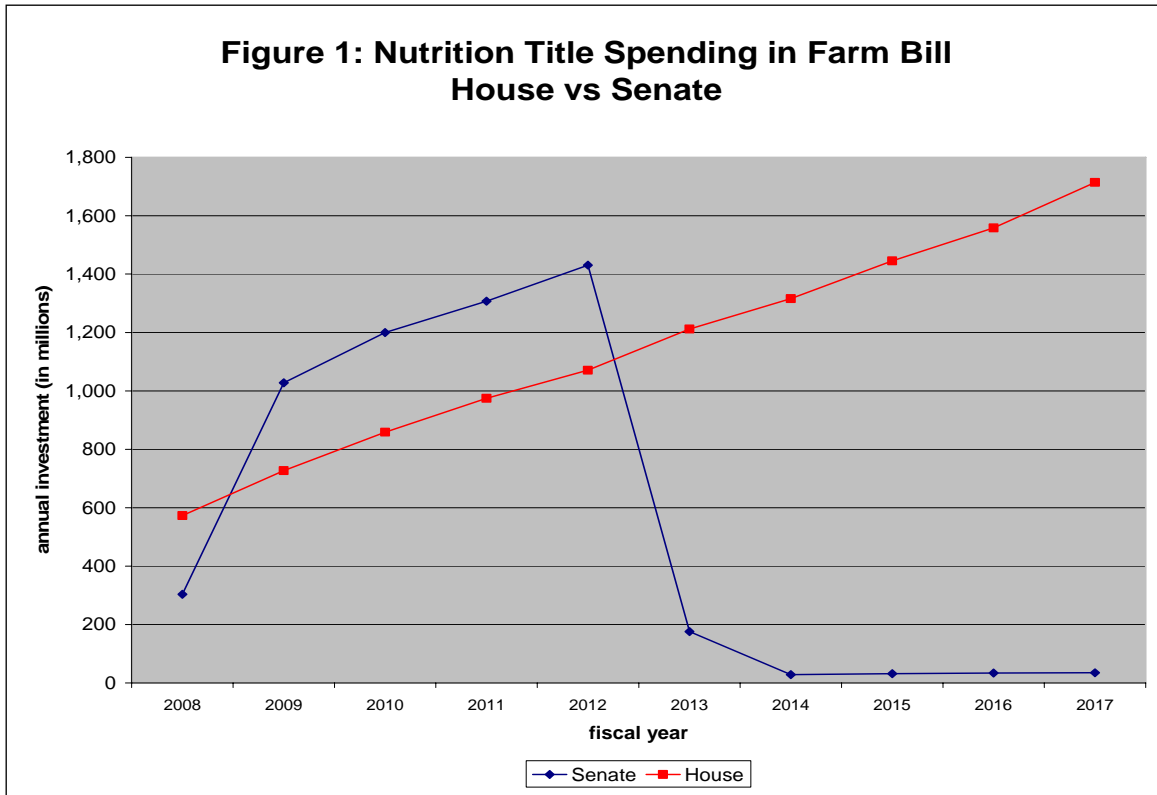
The House passed its farm bill (H.R. 2419, the “Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007”) in July 2007. The Senate farm bill passed on December 14 (H.R. 2419, the “Food and Energy Security Act of 2007”). The two chambers are expected to begin negotiations on a conference agreement early in 2008. The attached side-by-side compares the Nutrition provisions in title IV of each bill.

Both bills would make major, important investments in the nutrition area over the next five years in almost identical areas (\$4.2 billion in the House, \$5.3 billion in the Senate – see Table 1 below). Both bills would:

- **End years of erosion in the purchasing power of food stamps** by indexing for inflation (and making other improvements to) the program’s *standard deduction* and *minimum benefit*. These changes will help more than 10 million people, including families with children, seniors, and people with disabilities, afford an adequate diet.
- **Promote work and savings** by eliminating the cap on the *dependent care deduction*, improving the program’s resource limits, and no longer counting *tax-preferred retirement accounts and education accounts* toward the asset limit.
- **Increase support for emergency feeding organizations** by increasing annual funding for commodity purchases for **TEFAP** under the Food Stamp Program from \$140 million to \$250 million. (The House would index this amount for food inflation in later years.)
- **Include numerous provisions to enhance food stamp program operation, integrity, and oversight**, such as allowing states to accept food stamp applications over the telephone, phasing out food stamp coupons (in favor of EBT cards), and giving USDA more flexibility to set disqualification periods and fines for retailer violations.
- **Dramatically grow funding for fruits and vegetables in schools** by expanding the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, which provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to children in schools.

There is, however, a critical difference between the House and Senate nutrition titles. The House bill would *make these provisions permanent law*. Under the Senate bill, all the

major benefit improvements would end after 2012, and policies would return to current law. (See Figure 1) Unless Congress later took action to extend the policies, under the Senate approach more than 10 million recipients would experience benefit cuts and over 300,000 low-income people would be cut off food stamps in 2013. The highest priority for conference is to make the benefit improvements permanent.



Other differences between the House and Senate nutrition titles include:

- The House bill would invest an additional half billion dollars over five years in improving food stamp benefit adequacy by raising the minimum standard deduction from \$134 to \$145 (rather than the Senate’s \$140), making up more of the lost ground in food stamp purchasing power since the freeze went into effect in 1996. (Both bills would index these amounts for inflation.)
- The Senate bill would raise the food stamp asset limit from \$2,000 to \$3,500 (and from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for households with elderly or disabled members) and then index those amounts for inflation in later years. The House’s provision indexes the current asset limits for inflation so they do not continue to lose value.
- The Senate bill includes several important food stamp simplifications for participants and states: reducing paperwork burdens by expanding simplified reporting and transitional food stamps, and simplifying the 3 month time limit on unemployed childless adults.
- The House bill would clarify the longstanding requirement that only employees who meet the merit systems personnel standards be able to take food stamp applications and make decisions about which households are and are not eligible.

- The Senate bill would increase mandatory funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program in schools by 25 fold — from \$9 million a year to \$225 million a year, with inflation adjustments in later years. The House’s increase — to \$70 million a year — is also large, but more modest.

Table 1: Nutrition Investments in House and Senate Farm Bills (outlays in millions of dollars, based on CBO estimates)				
Program	House		Senate	
	5 year	10 year	5 year	10 year
Food Stamps	\$3,320	\$9,505	\$3,580	\$3,739
TEFAP	\$606	\$1,363	\$550	\$550
Fruit and Vegetable Program	\$279	\$584	\$991	\$1,133
Other Programs	\$0	\$0	\$150	\$155
Total Nutrition Title	\$4,205 million	\$11,452 million	\$5,271 million	\$5,577 million

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON OF NUTRITION PROVISIONS OF HOUSE AND SENATE FARM BILLS

Notes:

- For more detailed descriptions of the House and Senate nutrition titles see: House: <http://www.cbpp.org/7-24-07fa.htm> and Senate: <http://www.cbpp.org/10-24-07fa.htm>.
- Cost estimates are from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The Senate numbers do not fully reflect minor changes from floor amendments. For the House estimate CBO assumed the bill would be enacted by October 2007. Updated estimates likely will be modestly lower.
- Side-by-side organized as follows:
 - I — Food Stamp and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) provisions of the Food Stamp Act (FSA).
 - II — Changes to other programs
 - III — CBO cost estimates

Provision	House	Senate
I. Food Stamp/TEFAP Provisions of Food Stamp Act		
Name Change		
	Section 4001: Renames the Food Stamp Program the “Secure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program” — or SSNAP.	Section 4001 and 4909: Renames the Food Stamp Program the “Food and Nutrition Program.”
Food Stamp Benefit Improvements		
Standard Deduction	Section 4006: Raises the minimum standard deduction to \$145 in FY 2008 with annual inflation adjustments in later years. Ends erosion in food stamps’ purchasing power. Improves benefits for more than 12 million people. Provides a typical working family an additional \$5 a month in 2008, rising to \$11 a month by 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$2.180 billion</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$6.475 billion</i>	Section 4102: Raises the minimum standard deduction to \$140 in FY 2008 with annual inflation adjustments in later years. Ends erosion in food stamps’ purchasing power. Improves benefits for almost 10 million people. Provides a typical working family an additional \$4 a month in 2008, rising to \$8 a month by 2012. Ends after FY 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$1.408 billion</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1.408 billion</i>
Dependent Care Deduction	Section 4007: Removes the cap on the dependent care deduction. Provides an average of almost \$500 a year to approximately 100,000 working households that pay high child care costs. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$249 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$548 million</i>	Section 4103: Same policy, but later effective date. Ends after FY 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$213 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$213 million</i>

Provision	House	Senate
Minimum benefit	<p>Section 4013: Raises the minimum benefit that one and two person households receive from \$10 a month to 10 percent of the thrifty food plan for a household of 1 (\$16 in FY 2008, with adjustments for food inflation in later years). Approximately 780,000 people, mostly seniors or people with disabilities, would receive higher benefits.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$243 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$562 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4109: Same policy, but effective in FY 2009. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$214 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$214 million</i></p>
Exclude combat pay	<p>Section 4005: Codifies current policy that excludes from countable income special pay received by service members who are deployed to a combat zone.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$3 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$5 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4101: Same policy, but ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$2 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$2 million</i></p>
Food Stamp Eligibility Changes		
Raise/index asset limits	<p>Section 4008: Adjusts the food stamp asset limits (\$2,000 for most households and \$3,000 for households with elderly or disabled members) for annual inflation.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$60 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$497 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4104(a): Raises the food stamp asset limits to \$3,500 for most households and \$4,500 for households with elderly or disabled members, beginning in FY09, and adjusts in later years for annual inflation. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$960 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$960 million</i></p>
Exclude retirement accounts	<p>Section 4010: Excludes all tax-preferred retirement accounts, such as IRAs, from countable resources.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$564 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1.365 billion</i></p>	<p>Section 4104(b): Same policy, but later effective date. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$530 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$530 million</i></p>
Exclude education accounts	<p>Section 4009: Excludes all tax-preferred education accounts, such as 529s, from countable resources.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$8 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$18 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4104(c): Same policy, but later effective date. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$7 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$7 million</i></p>

Provision	House	Senate
Simplifications of Food Stamp Procedures		
Simplified Reporting	No provision.	Section 4105: Reduces paperwork burdens on households with seniors and people with disabilities by allowing states to extend the simplified reporting option to them with 12-month certification periods. This is the only improvement with a cost that the Senate makes permanent. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$123 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$303 million</i>
Unemployed Childless Adults	No provision.	Section 4107: Simplifies the 3-month time limit on unemployed childless adults by merging the two existing 3-month periods of eligibility within 36 months to one 6 month period. Ends after FY 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$64 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$64 million</i>
Transitional Food Stamps	No provision.	Section 4108: Expands the state option to extend 5 months of transitional food stamps to families with children to State-only funded cash assistance programs. Ends after FY 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$58 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$58 million</i>
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)		
Commodities under the Food Stamp Act	Section 4028: Increases mandatory commodities for TEFAP from \$140 million a year to \$250 million in FY 2008 and adjusts the amounts for increases in food inflation in later years. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$606 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1.363 billion</i>	Section 4110: Increases mandatory commodities for TEFAP from \$140 million a year to \$250 million a year (with <u>no</u> inflation adjustments in later years.) Ends after FY 2012. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$550 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$550 million</i>
Food Stamp Program Operations		
Definition of drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program	Section 4002: Codifies the current USDA policy regarding the eligibility of certain drug and alcohol treatment centers to receive reimbursement under the Food Stamp Program on behalf of their residents.	No provision.

Provision	House	Senate
De-obligation of food stamp coupons	<p>Section 4011: Phases out food stamp coupons as legal tender and makes conforming changes. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: -\$3 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: -\$8 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4202: Substantively the same provision with respect to phasing out coupons; minor technical differences.</p> <p>Includes a GAO study of “the effects of the Secretary issuing a rule requiring that benefits shall only be used to purchase food that is included in the most recent applicable thrifty food plan market basket.”</p> <p>Also provides that no interchange fees — the fees that card companies charge merchants — may apply to EBT transactions.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: -\$3 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: -\$8 million</i></p>
Accrual of EBT Benefits	<p>Section 4012: Requires states to maintain EBT benefits “online” for the lesser of a) 12 months, or b) 3 months in which a household fails to access a balance of more than \$1,000. In either case, the state must notify the household and explain how the household can reactivate those benefits within 12 months.</p>	<p>Section 4106: Allows states to store a household’s benefits “off-line” if the household has not accessed the EBT account for 6 months. A state that does so must send notice to the household and make benefits available within 48 hours of a request. Requires states to “expunge” a household’s benefits if the household has not accessed the account for 12 months.</p>
State option for telephonic signature	<p>Section 4014: Gives states the option to allow households to apply for food stamps and establish a filing date over the telephone.</p>	<p>Section 4204: Same provision.</p>

Provision	House	Senate
Review of major changes in program design	<p>Section 4015: Reaffirms and clarifies that state civil servants (rather than private contractors) must make decisions about individual households' eligibility for food stamps.</p> <p>Eligibility includes official communications and determinations of "substantive and procedural compliance." Exempts areas such as EBT systems and call centers, computer systems, and non-profit groups conducting outreach, application or recertification assistance, verifying identity, or providing translation services. Also exempts disaster food stamp programs. Provides a four month transition period for affected states to renegotiate their contracts and includes language intended to help states avoid financial penalties for renegotiating or canceling their contract.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$11 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$11 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4211:</p> <p>(1) Clarifies the responsibility of state agencies in states where counties administer the Food Stamp Program.</p> <p>(2) Requires states to keep records as necessary to determine compliance with the program rules.</p> <p>(3) Requires USDA to set standards for identifying major changes in program operations and requires states implementing such changes to notify USDA and to collect data on the impact of these changes on program integrity and household access, particularly for vulnerable households.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$0</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$0</i></p>
Technical Clarification Regarding Eligibility	No provision.	Section 4201: Requires the Secretary to define several terms and ensure consistent application of a 1996 provision that prevents criminals from receiving food stamps.
Clarification of Split Issuance	No provision.	Section 4203: Clarifies that states may not divide individual households' monthly allotments into two or more issuances. Would not prevent states from issuing food stamps on different days of the month for different households or issuing a second allotment if a benefit correction were necessary.
Privacy Protections	No provision.	Section 4205: Would limit use of protected private information to purposes for which it is being shared and would prohibit commercial exploitation of that data for purposes unrelated to program administration.

Provision	House	Senate
Civil Rights Compliance	No provision.	Section 4207: Clarifies in statute that food stamp administering agencies comply, as TANF agencies already must, with four major civil rights statutes.
Employment, Training, and Job Retention.	No provision.	<p>Section 4208: (1) Allows FSET funds to be used for job retention services for up to 90 days after FSET participants begin employment, and (2) clarifies that FSET volunteers are not subject to the 120 hour-a-month participation limit or the requirement that the number of hours of participation not exceed the number of hours equal to the household's food stamp benefit divided by the minimum wage. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$15 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$15 million</i></p>
Codification of Access Rules	No provision.	Section 4209: Clarifies authorization of bilingual access rules.
Funding of Employment and Training Programs	No provision.	<p>Section 4304: Rescinds all food stamp employment and training (FSET) funds that are unobligated at the time of enactment. Also would require that states spend annual FSET grant money within two years.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr estimate: -\$16 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr estimate: -\$27 million</i></p>
Definition of Staple Foods	No provision.	<p>Section 4401: Amends the definition of "staple foods," (regarding standards for authorizing retailers):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Excludes dietary supplements (i.e., vitamins) from staple foods. (Section 4402 allows food stamps to be used to <i>purchase</i> certain dietary supplements.) 2) Authorizes the Secretary to issue regulations to define "depth of stock," with the goal of ensuring that a wide variety of staple foods are available continuously in authorized retail stores.

Provision	House	Senate
Dietary Supplements	No provision.	<p>Section 4402: Requires the Secretary to issue regulations to allow certain dietary supplements to be considered “accessory foods,” and thus be purchased with food stamps. Dietary supplements could not be purchased with food stamps before USDA issues final regulations unless the dietary supplement and retailer industries develop acceptable standards for labeling supplements.</p> <p>Covered supplements are multivitamins that provide 100 percent of the recommended daily levels for at least two-thirds of the essential vitamins and minerals and provide folic acid or calcium, in accordance with existing government rules.</p>
State performance on enrolling children receiving food stamps for free school meals	No provision.	Section 4406: Requires USDA to submit to Congress annually a report on the effectiveness of each state in automatically enrolling school-aged children for free school meals using “direct certification” based on their food stamp participation, including best practices.
Food Stamp Program Integrity		
Civil penalties and disqualification for retailer fraud	<p>Section 4017: Gives USDA more flexibility in setting disqualification periods and fines for certain retailer violations, such as allowing customers to purchase non-food items with food stamp benefits.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$10 million revenue</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$20 million revenue</i></p>	<p>Section 4303: Same provision.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$10 million revenue</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$20 million revenue</i></p>

Provision	House	Senate
Major Systems Failures	<p>Section 4018: If USDA determines that a major systems failure in a state has caused overpayments to a “substantial number of households,” USDA may prohibit the state from collecting the overpayments from households. Instead, the state would be responsible for reimbursing the federal government for the claim.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: -\$5 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: -\$10 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4301: Same provision.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: -\$5 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: -\$10 million</i></p>
Preservation of Access and Payment Accuracy	No provision.	Section 4212: Requires state to adequately test and pilot new computer systems, update systems for changed policy and circumstances, and evaluate systems’ effect on access and payment accuracy.
Performance Standards for Biometric identification Technology	No provision.	Section 4302: Requires states, subject to standards set by the Secretary, to ensure that finger-imaging systems are a cost-effective way to detect and deter dual participation in the Food Stamp Program compared to other available measures.
Eligibility Disqualification	No provision.	Section 4305: Disqualifies individuals from food stamps for: (1) intentionally obtaining cash by using food stamps to purchase a product that has a returnable container, discarding the product, and returning the container for the deposit amount; or 2) intentionally selling food that was purchased using food stamp benefits.

Provision	House	Senate
Enhancing Food Stamp Program Role in Nutrition		
Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program	<p>Section 4003: Codifies USDA and state nutrition education activities for individuals eligible for food stamps as a specific component of the Food Stamp Program and updates authorization language.</p> <p>Section 4022: Directs the Secretary to support and encourage effective interventions for food stamp nutrition education and to coordinate with other programs and resources.</p>	<p>Section 4213: Same as House Section 4003.</p> <p>Section 4407: Substantially the same as House Section 4022, except a Sense of the Congress. States that Congress intends that nutrition education funds be used only for activities that are consistent with the Dietary Guidelines and only for food stamp recipients and people who are potentially eligible for food stamps.</p>
Pilot projects on obesity, nutrition promotion, and health	Section 4023: Authorizes appropriations of \$10 million a year for “Initiative to Address Obesity Among Low-Income Americans” demonstration program to test and evaluate strategies to reduce obesity among low income people.	<p>Section 4403: Provides \$50 million for the Secretary to test and rigorously evaluate strategies to use the Food Stamp Program to improve the dietary and health status of food stamp recipients and reduce obesity.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$45 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$50 million</i></p>
Changes to Other Programs under Food Stamp Act		
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)	<p>Section 4004: Amends the authorization for FDPIR, which some American Indians may receive in lieu of food stamps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) disqualifies from food stamps any individual who is disqualified from FDPIR; 2) authorizes \$5 million a year in appropriations for the Secretary to purchase traditional and local foods for the program; and 3) requires the Secretary to submit a report on the adequacy of the FDPIR food package. 	Section 4501: Same provision except: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Traditional food fund includes a survey to determine what traditional foods are desired by participants, and purchases must be procured cost-effectively; and 2) Includes a separate authorization for the purchase of bison meat.

Provision	House	Senate
Feasibility study of comparable access for Puerto Rico	Section 4026: Requires the Secretary to conduct a study of the feasibility and effects of treating Puerto Rico the same as one of the states, in lieu of the block grant it currently receives. Includes assessment of administrative impact, income eligibility, benefit and deduction levels, and impact of program on low income people. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$1 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1 million</i>	Section 4206: Same provision except: Requires a report to Congress within one year of enactment and explicitly appropriates \$1 million for the study. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$1 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1 million</i>
Farmers' Market EBT	No provision.	Section 4210: Establishes a \$5 million grant program to expand the number of farmers' markets that accept EBT cards by providing equipment, training, education, and technical support to farmers markets. Grants can go to state or local government agencies or non-profits. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$5 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$5 million</i>
Food Stamps Act Reauthorizations¹		
<i>Length of reauthorization</i>	<i>Extends authorizations through 2012.</i>	<i>Most authorizations are for "fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter".</i>
Access/participation Grants [§11(t)(1)]	Section 4016	Section 4801(a)
Food Stamp Employment and Training [§16(h)]	Section 4019	Section 4801(b)
Cost allocation [§16(k)]	Section 4020	Section 4801(c)
Cash pilot projects [§17(b)]	Section 4021	Section 4801(d)
Overall reauthorization of Food Stamp Act [§18]	Section 4024	Section 4801(e)
Block Grant for Puerto Rico and American Samoa [§19]	Section 4025	Section 4801(f)

¹ The Senate would permanently authorize the Food Stamp Program, but only temporarily authorize the benefit improvements with a cost. In 2012 the benefit rules would return to current law.

Provision	House	Senate
Community Food Projects [S25]	<p>Section 4027: Authorizes appropriations of \$30 million a year. Also includes other improvements.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$0</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$0</i></p>	<p>Section 4801(g): Provides \$50 million each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p>Section 4912 of the Senate bill requires that \$2 million from funds made available for Community Food Projects be used for the pilot program to promote whole grain foods in schools that is created under that section.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$50 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$50 million</i></p>
II. Changes To Other Programs		
USDA purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables	<p>Section 4301: Extends authority from 2002 farm bill for the Secretary to purchase up to \$50 million of fresh fruits and vegetables for the School Lunch Program using funds available under Section 32. For 2010 through 2012 the amount would be raised to \$75 million. The provision also extends the authority for the Secretary to use the Defense Department's procurement process for these purchases.</p>	<p>Section 4907: Requires that USDA's purchases of fruits, vegetables, and nuts for domestic assistance programs that is made with funding from Section 32 be of an annual amount equal to the current CBO baseline.</p>
Buy American	<p>Section 4302: Directs USDA to undertake training, guidance, and enforcement of the Buy American statutory requirements in the School Lunch Act and DOD fresh fruit program.</p>	<p>Section 4906: Same provision.</p>

Provision	House	Senate
<p>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</p>	<p>Section 4303: Increases mandatory funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, under the National School Lunch Act, from \$9 million per year to \$70 million per year to fund operations in all states.</p> <p>The grant program would fund 35 elementary or secondary schools in each state and additional schools based on student population.</p> <p>USDA would select which new schools would participate such that in the majority of selected schools at least half of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Partnerships that provide non-federal resources and the use of locally grown foods would be encouraged.</p> <p>A share of funds could be used for federal (1%) and state (5%) administrative expenses.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$279 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$584 million</i></p>	<p>Section 4904: Expands mandatory funds for the program to \$225 million a year, with inflation adjustments to that amount in later years. Additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated.</p> <p>Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia would receive a federal grant. Each State would get at least 1% of the total, with remaining funds allocated based on each state's share of the population. Grants could be reallocated among and within states if not used.</p> <p>States would select which elementary schools would participate, but would be required to ensure that: 1) at least half of the students in participating schools are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and 2) priority is given to schools with the highest share of children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals, partnerships that provide non-federal resources, and integration with other nutrition education and obesity reduction activities.</p> <p>The annual grant to schools under the program would be in the range of \$50 to \$75 per student, as determined by the state.</p> <p>The section would also require an evaluation (funded with \$3 million) to determine whether the program increased children's consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, improved their diets in other ways, or affected other outcomes considered important by the Secretary.</p> <p>\$500,000 could be used for USDA administrative costs. <i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$991 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$1.133 billion</i></p>

Provision	House	Senate
Purchases of local food	Section 4304: Directs the Secretary to encourage institutions, such as schools, that receive funds from the Child Nutrition Programs to purchase “locally produced foods” to the “maximum extent practicable and appropriate.” Allows the use of a geographic preference in procurement in all programs funded under the National School Lunch Act, Child Nutrition Act, and DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.	Section 4902: Almost identical, except refers to “locally grown fruits and vegetables” rather than “locally produced foods.”
Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program	<p>Section 4401: Extends existing \$15 million a year Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program. Authorizes appropriations of \$20 million for FY 2008, rising to \$75 million in FY 2012, to carry out and expand the program.</p> <p>Adds honey to allowable products.</p> <p>Excludes program benefits from consideration as income for eligibility determinations in other federal, state, or local law.</p> <p>Prohibits taxes from being collected on purchases using program benefits.</p>	<p>Section 4701: Extends Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program. Excludes program benefits from consideration as income for eligibility determinations in other federal or state means-tested assistance programs. Increases funding by \$10 million per year from CCC. Ends after FY 2012.</p> <p>Section 4912 of the Senate bill requires that \$2 million from funds made available for the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program be used for the pilot program to promote whole grain foods in schools that is created under that section.</p> <p>Section 4702: Prohibits a state from participating in the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program if it collects sales tax on the purchase of food using program benefits.</p> <p><i>CBO 5-yr cost: \$50 million</i> <i>CBO 10-yr cost: \$50 million</i></p>
Congressional Hunger Fellows	Section 4402: Authorizes the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellows and Mickey Leland International Hunger Fellows programs, which fund fellowships to address hunger and poverty in the United States and abroad. Authorizes \$3 million a year for each of 2008-2012	Section 4404: Same provision, except authorizes such sums as may be necessary.

Provision	House	Senate
Joint Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Activities	Section 4403: Instructs the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services to jointly monitor, conduct research, and disseminate information on diet, nutrition, physical activity, and related issues. (Amends 2002 farm bill.)	No provision.
Sense of the Congress on Obesity Prevention	Section 4404: States the sense of the Congress that food provided in the national school breakfast and lunch programs should be selected to reduce the incidence of juvenile obesity and to maximize nutritional value.	No provision.
Hunger-free Communities	No provision.	Section 4405: Authorizes appropriations of \$50 million a year for: 1) The Secretary to conduct a study and make recommendations on various aspects of reducing hunger in the United States; 2) “Hunger-free communities collaborative grants” to public or nonprofit organizations to collaborate on activities to reduce hunger; and 3) “Hunger-free communities infrastructure grants” to emergency feeding organizations in order to improve facilities or equipment, obtain locally produced produce or protein products, or process and serve wild game.
Periodic surveys of foods purchased by School Food Authorities	No provision.	Section 4901: Requires USDA (in FY 2008 and every five years thereafter) to conduct a nationally representative survey of the foods purchased by school food authorities that participate in the National School Lunch Program. Provides up to \$3 million for each survey. <i>5-yr cost: \$3 million</i> <i>10-yr cost: \$6 million</i>

Provision	House	Senate
Healthy food education and program replicability	No provision.	<p>Section 4903: Clarifies that nutrition education under a National School Lunch Act “farm-to-cafeteria” pilot program should promote healthy food education. Also gives priority to projects that can be replicated in other schools.</p> <p>Authorizes appropriations of \$10 million under the National School Lunch Act for grants to nonprofits for community gardening pilot programs in up to 5 states.</p>
Team Nutrition Network	No provision.	<p>Section 4905: Provides mandatory funding for the development of educational materials and for grants to states to promote healthy eating and physical activity by, for example, educating families and school food service staff. Provides \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011. Additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated.</p> <p><i>5-yr cost: \$12 million</i> <i>10-yr cost: \$12 million</i></p>
Agricultural policy and public health	No provision.	<p>Section 4908: Requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study and report to Congress on whether the agricultural policies of the U.S. have an impact on health, nutrition, overweight and obesity, and diet-related chronic disease.</p>

Provision	House	Senate
Grain Pilot Program	No provision.	<p>Section 4912: Creates a new pilot program in six states, modeled on the Fruit and Vegetable program, to provide whole grain products as after school snacks in schools in which at least half of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.</p> <p>\$2 million for the pilot would come from the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and \$2 million would come from Community Food Projects (see sections 4701 and 4801(g)). Up to \$3 million could be used for an evaluation and administration.</p>
Report on Federal Hunger Programs	No provision.	<p>Section 4913: Requires, within 2 years of enactment, that GAO report to Congress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a list of all federal programs that seek to alleviate hunger or food insecurity or improve nutritional intake; 2) detailed information about the funding history for each program and the available research on its effectiveness; 3) historical information on the number of people who are hungry, food insecure, or obese; and 4) the number of employees of USDA and the number of farmers and other producers that receive assistance from USDA.
Food employment empowerment and development program	No provision.	<p>Section 4914: Authorizes grants to public or nonprofit agencies to encourage the effective use of community resources to combat hunger by creating opportunity for vulnerable populations through food recovery and job training.</p>

Provision	House	Senate
Infrastructure and transportation grants to support rural food bank delivery of healthy perishable foods.	No provision.	Section 4915: Authorizes appropriations of \$10 million a year for grants to state and local food banks in rural areas to help with the costs of receiving, storing, distributing, tracking, and delivering time-sensitive food products.
Other Program Reauthorizations		
TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) [§202(A),§204(a) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983]	Section 4201: Increases the authorization for annual appropriations from \$60 million to \$100 million and extends authorization through 2012.	Section 4601: Requires states to submit a distribution plan for TEFAP commodities to USDA every three years rather than every four years and would add “donated wild game” to the list of commodities that TEFAP appropriated funds may be used to support. Section 4802(a): Reauthorizes the Emergency Food Assistance Program for FY 2008 and thereafter and increases the authorization from \$60 million to \$100 million annually.
Commodity Distribution Program [§4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973]	Section 4023(a): Extends authorization through FY 2012.	Section 4802(b): Extends authorization for FY 2008 and subsequent fiscal years.
CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) [§5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973]	Section 4203: Extends the authorization for CSFP (and Commodity Distribution Program) through 2012 Removes the priority states must give to women, infants, and children who apply for benefits over elderly in CSFP. Also raises the maximum income eligibility standard to 185 percent of poverty.	Section 4602: Removes the priority for service to women, infants, and children over the elderly in CSFP. Section 4802(c): Extends authorization for FY 2008 and subsequent fiscal years. Provides that states may serve seniors with income up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level in CSFP if the Secretary finds that appropriations for the program are sufficient to expand CSFP to every state that wishes to participate.

Provision	House	Senate
Distribution of Surplus Commodities to Special Nutrition Projects [§1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981]	Section 4202: Extends authorization through FY 2012.	Section 4802(d): Extends authorization through FY 2012.
Nutrition information and awareness pilot [§4403(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002]	No provision.	Section 4803: Extends authorization through FY 2012.
Other Provisions		
Effective and Implementation Dates	No provision.	<p>Section 4910:</p> <p>(a) Provisions of the nutrition title would be effective on 4/1/08, except as otherwise provided.</p> <p>(b)(1) States could implement the food stamp benefit improvements between 4/1/08 and 10/1/08.</p> <p>(2) States could implement the food stamp dependent care change (section 4103) and/or asset changes (section 4104) beginning with new certification periods after the implementation date above.</p>

Provision	House	Senate
Eliminating cost in 2013 and later years	No provision.	<p>Section 4911: Most provisions with an estimated cost would expire after 2012. The only provision of the title with a budgetary cost that would continue after 2012 is the state option to expand simplified reporting to households with only seniors or people with disabilities (§4105).</p> <p>Provisions that expire: §4101 – Combat pay §4102 – Standard deduction §4103 – Dependent care deduction §4104 – Resources (all 3) §4107 – ABAWDs §4108 – Transitional §4109 – Minimum benefit §4110(a)(2) – TEFAP §4208 – FSET changes §4701(a)(3) – Sr. Farmers’ Markets §4801(g) – Community Food Projects §4904 – Fruit and Veg. Program.²</p>
III. CBO Estimated Cost		
Food Stamp and TEFAP provisions	\$3.9 billion over 5 years \$10.9 billion over 10 years	\$4.1 billion over 5 years \$4.3 billion over 10 years
Total Title IV	\$4.2 billion over 5 years \$11.5 billion over 10 years	\$5.3 billion over 5 years \$5.6 billion over 10 years

² Because of a floor amendment accepted by the bill managers, a technical error resulted in the legislation referencing the wrong section for the Fruit and Vegetable Program (Section 4903, rather than 4904).