

House Committee on Agriculture

SNAP Integrity and Farm Security Full Committee Markup

13 May 2025

Overview: The session focused on proposed changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and agricultural funding as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget reconciliation process.

Key Topics Discussed

1. SNAP Reform Proposals

- SNAP costs have increased since 2019, from \$60 billion to \$110 billion annually.
- Proposed changes include:
 - Expanding work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents.
 - Redefining a dependent child from under 18 to under 7.
 - Introducing a state cost-sharing model for SNAP benefits, starting at 5% and increasing based on administrative error rates.
- Supporters argued these changes aim to improve program integrity, reduce costs, and encourage employment.
- Opponents expressed concern that the changes could reduce access to food assistance for vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and veterans.

2. Agricultural Policy and Farm Bill Provisions

- The bill includes updates to reference prices, crop insurance, and trade promotion programs.
- It aims to address rising input costs, declining commodity prices, and increased farm debt.
- Provisions also support agricultural research and specialty crop programs.

3. State Budget Implications

- States would be required to cover a portion of SNAP benefit costs, with higher shares for states with higher error rates.
- Some state officials and members of Congress raised concerns about the financial burden this could place on state budgets.

4. Amendments and Legislative Process

- Numerous amendments were proposed to:
 - Prevent benefit reductions.
 - Maintain SNAP eligibility for specific groups (e.g., veterans, caregivers, children).
 - Preserve programs like SNAP-Ed and Heat and Eat.
- Most amendments were not adopted.
- Some members expressed concern about the speed of the process and the lack of hearings on major policy changes.

5. Broader Themes

- The session highlighted differing views on the balance between fiscal responsibility and maintaining support for low-income households.
- There was bipartisan support for strengthening agricultural programs, but disagreement over the scope and impact of SNAP reforms.

Voting

- The committee adopted the bill and voted to transmit its recommendations to the House Budget Committee.
- The final vote was 29–25.