

Tennessee Families Need Summer EBT!

HB1835/SB1911: Fight Hunger in Tennessee

Bill Sponsors: Representative Michael Hale and Senator Paul Bailey

If passed, the bill would require Tennessee to make Summer EBT (S-EBT) available to families every summer. It would feed Tennessee kids during the summers when school is out and hunger spikes - keeping kids healthy and ready to learn. It would also bring \$84 million in federal funding that would help boost TN's local economy.

What is Summer EBT?

- Alleviates summer hunger for 700,000 Tennessee children
- Piloted in Northeast Tennessee in 2018
- Provides \$120 in benefits to spend at grocery stores
- Children who receive free or reduced price meals during the school year are eligible
- Tennessee participated in S-EBT during summer 2024
- Would bring \$84 million in federal dollars direct to TN families

Summer is the hungriest time of year for Tennessee families.

When the school year ends, thousands of children from low income households lose access to the school meals they rely on.

Summer meal programs reach only a fraction of the children who need it. S-EBT bridges the gap by offering benefits to buy food during the summer. Hunger is best curbed when all programs are available.

Summer EBT reduces food insecurity!

S-EBT is tried and tested since 2011! Pilot projects produced positive impact. USDA Research found that Summer EBT:

- Reduced food insecurity by **8.3%**
- Decreased food hardship by **33%**
- Kids ate more fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Did not increase intake of sugar sweetened beverages.

Our neighbors in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia are participating. Don't let Tennessee children miss out!