

H. R. 1776

Free ice cream for all Americans on July 4th.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “**Grand Annual National Independence Day Universal Ice Cream Distribution, Commemoration, and Patriotic Dessert Access Act.**”

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

1. **Covered individual.** The term “covered individual” means any individual lawfully present in the United States on the date of distribution.
2. **Eligible vendor.** The term “eligible vendor” means a retail food establishment, grocery store, or food service provider that agrees to participate in the program under section 104.
3. **Secretary.** The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Food and Nutrition Service.

SEC. 103. ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ICE CREAM BENEFIT.

(a) **In general.** Beginning July 4, 2026, and each July 4 thereafter, the Secretary shall provide an Independence Day ice cream benefit to each covered individual.

(b) **Form of benefit.** The benefit shall be provided in the form of a **nontransferable electronic voucher** redeemable only for covered ice cream products.

(c) **Benefit amount.** The value of the voucher shall be **\$7.50 per covered individual**, adjusted annually for inflation pursuant to subsection (d).

(d) **Inflation adjustment.** For each fiscal year after fiscal year 2027, the Secretary shall increase the benefit amount by the percentage increase (if any) in the **Price Index** (as defined in section 105) for the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.

SEC. 104. VENDOR PARTICIPATION AND REIMBURSEMENT.

(a) **Participation agreements.** The Secretary shall establish a streamlined process under which eligible vendors may elect to participate and accept vouchers under section 103.

(b) **Reimbursement.** The Secretary shall reimburse participating vendors for voucher redemptions, subject to such verification and anti-fraud procedures as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) **Administrative fees.** The Secretary may pay reasonable administrative fees to participating vendors, not to exceed **1.0 percent** of total voucher redemptions.

SEC. 105. PRICE INDEX.

In this Act, the term “Price Index” means the **Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), U.S. city average**, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SEC. 106. APPROPRIATION; BUDGETARY TREATMENT.

(a) **Appropriation.** There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2037.

(b) **Limitation.** Amounts made available under this section may be used only for the provision of benefits under section 103 and administrative expenses under section 104.

SEC. 107. PROGRAM INTEGRITY; PENALTIES.

(a) **Program integrity.** The Secretary shall establish procedures to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, including identity verification and transaction monitoring.

(b) **Civil penalties.** Any person who knowingly traffics in vouchers issued under this Act shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than **\$10,000 per violation**, in addition to disqualification from participation.

SEC. 108. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment.