To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

March 1, 2018

Mr. Blumenthal (for himself, Ms. Warren, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Markey, Ms. Hirono, and Mr. Sanders) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'SNAP Work Opportunities and Veteran Protection Act of 2018'.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.

(a) Work Requirement. Section 6(o)(3) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3)) is amended-

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (E) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through 'Paragraph (2)' and inserting the following:

'(3) Exceptions.-

'(A) In general. Paragraph (2);

(3) in clause (iv) of subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking 'or' at the end;

(4) in clause (v) of subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting '; or'; and
(5) by adding at the end the following:

'(vi) not offered a position in a program described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (2).

'(B) Work requirements for certain veterans.-

'(i) In general. The work requirements under paragraph (2) shall not apply to a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) if the veteran-

'(I) is participating in a program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or a State to further employment or rehabilitation goals, including-

'(aa) an employment program;

'(bb) a compensated work therapy program;

'(cc) a mental or physical rehabilitation program;

'(dd) a nonemployment-focused program; and

'(ee) a program designed to help veterans transition to full- or part-time employment; and

'(II) demonstrates participation, if participation is less than 20 hours per week, in the program to the fullest extent that-

'(aa) the veteran is physically able; and

'(bb) the program allows.

'(ii) Exemption from 3-month limit. The 3-month limit under paragraph (2) shall not apply to a veteran who meets the requirements described in clause (i).'

(b) Funding of Employment and Training Programs. Section 16(h)(1)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(h)(1)(E)) is amended-

(1) in clause (i)(I), by striking 'section 6(o)(3)' and inserting 'any of clauses (i) through (v) of section 6(o)(3)(A) or under section 6(o)(3)(B)'; and

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking 'section 6(o)(3)' and inserting 'any of clauses (i) through (v) of section 6(o)(3)(A) or under section 6(o)(3)(B)'.

**SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

2017 CONG US S 2477