

Section-by-Section Description of H.R. 2407, the School Milk Nutrition Act of 2015

Section 1 entitles the bill the “School Milk Nutrition Act of 2015.”

Section 2 contains Congressional findings on several matters, including dietary guidance for milk consumption, shortfalls in current consumption, nutrient benefits of milk, reduced risk of chronic diseases through milk consumption, the role of milk in school feeding programs, and recent declines in school milk consumption.

Section 3 extends requirements in current law that milk be offered with each school lunch, that such milk comply with the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans and may be flavored or unflavored, and that schools may provide substitute beverages under certain circumstances. Section 3 amends current law by (1) adds a calorie cap and permits schools to offer low-fat flavored milk with no more than 150 calories per 8-ounce serving; (2) requiring that substitute beverages be nutritionally equivalent to low-fat milk, rather than whole milk as in current regulations; and (3) codifying the current list of nutrients as to which substitute beverages must be equivalent to milk.

Section 4 permits milk to be sold in the same size containers as other, competing beverages (current regulations permit larger container sizes for non-dairy beverages in some cases).

Section 5 requires an evaluation of recent trends in school milk consumption, including factors that may adversely affect consumption, review of pertinent scientific studies, consultation with experts in school food service and health fields. Section 5 requires a report to Congress on the study results and any recommendations for increasing school milk consumption.

Section 6 establishes a pilot program to test and demonstrate effective, affordable and sustainable strategies for increasing school milk consumption. The program is to provide grants to offset the cost of improvements and will test new milk venues, enhanced products for a la carte sales, improved refrigeration, packaging and merchandising, and additional flavors. A report to Congress evaluating the project must be submitted not later than five years after enactment.

Section 7 includes extended-shelf-life lactose-free milk in 8-ounce containers in the USDA Foods Program.

Section 8 permits women participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to received reduced-fat milk for themselves and their children if they make a written request.