
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 843 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DERMODY, ULLMAN, HOHENSTEIN, SOLOMON, DELLOSO, RAVENSTAHL, SCHLOSSBERG, KOSIEROWSKI, WILLIAMS, McCARTER, MERSKI, KINSEY, KULIK, MALAGARI, CONKLIN, D. MILLER, RABB, HARRIS, YOUNGBLOOD, BOYLE, LONGIETTI, A. DAVIS, BRADFORD, GREEN, ISAACSON, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE, SCHWEYER, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS, FIEDLER, DONATUCCI, CIRESI, McNEILL, HOWARD, FRANKEL, DeLUCA, PASHINSKI, CALTAGIRONE, O'MARA, BRIGGS, McCLINTON, GALLOWAY, SIMS, SHUSTERMAN, READSHAW AND WARREN, APRIL 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, APRIL 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Human Services to submit a request to
2 the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in
3 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Online
4 Purchasing Pilot.

5 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6 provides critical nutritional support for individuals and
7 families with little or no income, including older adults and
8 people with disabilities living on a fixed income, low-wage
9 working families and other low-income individuals and
10 households; and

11 WHEREAS, The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79, 128
12 Stat. 921), commonly referred to as the 2014 United States Farm
13 Bill, directs the United States Secretary of Agriculture to
14 authorize retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through
15 online transactions, based on the results of pilot projects

1 conducted with online food retailers; and

2 WHEREAS, The Food and Nutrition Service of the United States
3 Department of Agriculture created the SNAP Online Purchasing
4 Pilot to test the feasibility of using SNAP and electronic
5 benefit transfer benefits for online food purchases and to
6 determine whether authorizing online food purchases with SNAP
7 benefits would be in the best interest of the program; and

8 WHEREAS, States currently participating in the online pilot
9 project include Alabama, New York, Oregon and Washington; and

10 WHEREAS, Based on subsequent agreements, states anticipated
11 to join the online pilot project include Iowa, Maryland,
12 Nebraska and New Jersey; and

13 WHEREAS, In April 2019, New York launched a two-year pilot,
14 which allows SNAP recipients in that state to select and pay for
15 their groceries online for the first time; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture will use
17 the New York State pilot program to govern future efforts to
18 expand the use of SNAP benefits for online food purchases
19 nationwide; and

20 WHEREAS, In January 2020, the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
21 was launched in the State of Washington; and

22 WHEREAS, The rate at which United States consumers purchase
23 groceries online has increased rapidly in recent years, with
24 data indicating as many as 93 million online grocery purchasers
25 in 2019; and

26 WHEREAS, SNAP recipients in this Commonwealth should have the
27 same opportunity to shop for food online as millions of other
28 Americans; and

29 WHEREAS, The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot would enable SNAP
30 recipients in this Commonwealth with limited transportation or

1 grocery options the opportunity to access healthy foods; and

2 WHEREAS, In order for Pennsylvania to participate in the SNAP
3 Online Purchasing Pilot, the Department of Human Services is
4 required to submit a formal request to volunteer in the online
5 pilot program; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
7 Department of Human Services to submit a request to the United
8 States Department of Agriculture to participate in the
9 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Online Purchasing
10 Pilot; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
12 the Governor and the Secretary of Human Services.