

2024 -- H 7854

LC003450

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Giraldo, Handy, Sanchez, Cotter, Vella-Wilkinson, Felix, Kislak, Henries, and Diaz

Date Introduced: March 01, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-6-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-6 entitled "Public  
2 Assistance Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-6-8. Supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).**

4 (a) The department shall have the responsibility to administer the food stamp program for  
5 the state in compliance with the provisions of the federal Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended, 7  
6 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq. The supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) is and shall be the  
7 new title of the program formerly known as the food stamp program. All references in the Rhode  
8 Island general laws to food stamps shall be deemed to mean, apply to, refer to, and be interpreted  
9 in accordance with the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

10 (b) The department is empowered and authorized to submit its plan for food stamps to the  
11 federal government, or any agency or department of it, as follows:

12 (1) The department shall act for the state in any negotiations relative to the submission and  
13 approval of a plan, and may make any arrangement or changes in its plan not inconsistent with this  
14 chapter that may be required by the Food Stamp Act or the rules and regulations promulgated  
15 pursuant to it to obtain and retain such approval and to secure for this state the benefits of the  
16 provisions of the federal act relating to food stamps;

17 (2) The department shall make reports to the federal government, or any agency or  
18 department of it, in the form and nature required by it, and in all respects comply with any request  
19 or direction of the federal government, or any agency or department of it, that may be necessary to

1 assure the correctness and verification of the reports; and

2 (3) The department shall develop a plan to streamline the application, certification, and  
3 recertification process for SNAP beneficiaries aged sixty (60) years and over.

4 (c) The department is authorized and directed to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the  
5 state's share of the administrative cost involved in the operation of the food stamp program.

6 (d) No person shall be ineligible for food stamp benefits due solely to the restricted  
7 eligibility rules otherwise imposed by § 115(a)(2) of the Personal Responsibility and Work  
8 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-193), 21 U.S.C. § 862a(a)(2), and as this  
9 section may hereafter be amended.

10 (e) Commencing July 1, 2024, a household which meets any of the following requirements  
11 contained in this subsection (e) of this section shall be eligible to receive one additional benefit of  
12 forty dollars (\$40.00) per month; provided that, each household may receive only one additional  
13 forty dollars (\$40.00) in benefits per month pursuant to this subsection:

14 (1) Any household containing persons eligible for food stamp benefits containing minor  
15 children under the age of eighteen (18) years may receive an additional forty dollars (\$40.00) per  
16 month in food stamp benefits; or

17 (2) Any household containing persons eligible for food stamp benefits containing a person  
18 with a disability, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.  
19 (1990), and as such act is amended, may receive an additional forty dollars (\$40.00) per month in  
20 food stamp benefits.

21 (f) Commencing July 1, 2024, any person eligible for food stamp benefits and sixty (60)  
22 years of age or older may receive an additional forty dollars (\$40.00) per month in food stamp  
23 benefits.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC003450  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

\*\*\*

1           This act would provide eligibility for an additional forty dollars (\$40.00) per month in food  
2 stamp benefits to certain qualifying persons or households eligible for food stamp benefits,  
3 commencing July 1, 2024.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC003450  
=====