



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 958

LCO No. 3830



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BENEFICIARIES TO USE ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER CARDS AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section: (1)
2 "Restaurant Meals Program" means a federal program that allows
3 eligible beneficiaries of supplemental nutrition assistance to purchase
4 meals at participating restaurants using their electronic benefit transfer
5 cards, (2) "eligible beneficiaries" means an elderly or disabled member,
6 as defined in 7 USC 2012(j), and the spouse of such member, and
7 homeless individuals, as defined in 7 USC 2012(l), and (3) "electronic
8 benefit transfer card" means a card allowing for the transfer of payments
9 from state administered programs, including, but not limited to,
10 supplemental nutrition assistance.

11 (b) Not later than July 1, 2021, the Commissioner of Social Services
12 shall develop and implement a plan to commence participation in the
13 Restaurant Meals Program beginning not later than October 1, 2021. The
14 plan shall identify restaurants that contract with the Department of

15 Social Services to offer meals to eligible beneficiaries at concessional
16 prices pursuant to 7 USC 2018(h) and allow eligible beneficiaries to use
17 their electronic benefit transfer cards to purchase such meals.

18 (c) The Department of Social Services shall adopt policies and
19 procedures to implement the provisions of this section. The department
20 may implement such policies and procedures while in the process of
21 adopting such policies and procedures in regulation form, provided the
22 department posts notice of intent to adopt regulations on the
23 eRegulations System and the department's Internet web site not later
24 than twenty days after adopting such policies and procedures. Such
25 policies shall be valid until the time final regulations are adopted.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Social Services to develop and implement a plan to participate in a federal program that allows certain supplemental nutrition assistance beneficiaries to purchase meals at participating restaurants.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]