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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4108

02/22/2024 Authored by Keeler, Gomez and Hanson, J., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; establishing the Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors
1.3 program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 256D.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. 256D.66 MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR SENIORS PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Program established. The commissioner shall establish the Minnesota
1.8 SNAP step up for seniors program to supplement the minimum monthly benefit amount for
1.9 eligible seniors who receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
1.10 benefits.

1.11 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined have the meanings
1.12 given them.

1.13 (b) "Eligible senior" means an individual age 55 or older.

1.14 (c) "Minimum monthly benefit amount" means \$50.

1.15 Subd. 3. Supplemental benefit. Under this program, if a household includes an eligible
1.16 senior and receives a federally funded SNAP benefit of less than the minimum monthly
1.17 benefit amount, the state shall provide a supplement to increase the total benefit to at least
1.18 the minimum monthly benefit amount. Households with an eligible senior must receive the
1.19 supplemental benefit under this section in addition to the federal SNAP benefit.

1.20 Subd. 4. Prohibition on counting supplemental benefit as income. The benefit amount
1.21 received by an eligible senior or household under this section must not be counted as income
1.22 in any program that does not count SNAP benefits as income.

2.1 Subd. 5. Program administration. (a) The program under this section shall be subject
2.2 to the same federal and state regulations, rules, and procedures for implementing the federal
2.3 SNAP as much as possible, including but not limited to distributing the program benefit
2.4 amount through the SNAP electronic benefit transfer system.

2.5 (b) The commissioner may increase the minimum monthly benefit amount established
2.6 herein as deemed appropriate and subject to state appropriations and federal funding.

2.7 (c) If federal funds become available for the purpose of this section, the commissioner
2.8 shall utilize the federal funds as the primary source for issuing the monthly supplemental
2.9 benefit before any state funds are used.

2.10 **Sec. 2. FEDERAL WAIVER OR APPROVAL; MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR**
2.11 **SENIORS PROGRAM.**

2.12 The commissioner of human services shall apply to the United States Department of
2.13 Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement
2.14 the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.66.

2.15 **Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR SENIORS**
2.16 **PROGRAM.**

2.17 \$..... in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of
2.18 human services for the Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors program under Minnesota
2.19 Statutes, section 256D.66.