

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1445 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KHAN, SALISBURY, GIRAL, KENYATTA, HOWARD, BURGOS, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, GREEN, KAZEEM, STEELE, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, WAXMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, MADDEN, FLEMING, ISAACSON, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, CIRESI, INNAMORATO, CERRATO, PARKER, O'MARA, CONKLIN, PROBST, PIELLI, HANBIDGE, MERSKI, KRAJEWSKI, SHUSTERMAN, OTTEN, CURRY, FRIEL AND DELLOSO, JUNE 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 20, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in departmental powers and
4 duties as to public assistance, providing for Supplemental
5 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) study.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
9 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section 414.1. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
12 (SNAP) Study.--(a) The department shall conduct a study and
13 issue a report on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
14 Program's outreach and application process.

15 (b) At a minimum, the report shall:

16 (1) Identify how the department can improve the outreach
17 process and ensure that Commonwealth residents who are eligible

1 for the program can access the program.

2 (2) Consider outreach strategies found in the United States
3 Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service SNAP State
4 Outreach Plan.

5 (3) Identify areas of improvement for the program based on
6 strategies found in the United States Department of Agriculture
7 Food and Nutrition Service SNAP State Outreach Plan.

8 (4) Identify how the department can improve the outreach
9 process for underserved communities, including students,
10 veterans, older adults, immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals and
11 mixed-status households.

12 (5) Identify how the department can improve the application
13 process to ensure that applicants have an accessible way of
14 applying to the program.

15 (6) Identify how county assistance offices can improve
16 administrative processes to guarantee that required deadlines
17 are being met, including electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card
18 replacements.

19 (c) The secretary shall submit the report under this section
20 to the following no later than one year after the effective date
21 of this section:

22 (1) The Governor.

23 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

24 (3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (4) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the
26 Senate.

27 (5) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the House
28 of Representatives.

29 (6) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Health
30 and Human Services Committee of the Senate.

1 (7) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Human
2 Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

3 (d) As used in this section, the term "program" means the
4 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) administered by
5 the department.

6 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.