

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 552 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY KANE, HAYWOOD, KEARNEY, FONTANA, BREWSTER,  
SANTARSIERO, CAPPELLETTI AND COSTA, MARCH 28, 2023

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 28, 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 public assistance,  
4 establishing the Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks Program.

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

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

10 Section 405.1C. Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks  
11 Program.--(a) The Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks Program is  
12 established in the department. The following apply:

13 (1) The program shall provide benefit incentives for SNAP  
14 recipients who redeem SNAP benefits for the targeted food items  
15 specified under subsection (c).

16 (2) The department may allocate money available for the  
17 program to a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization or entity that  
18 meets the criteria specified under subsection (b) for the  
19 purpose of administering the program throughout this

1 Commonwealth.

2 (b) The department shall develop an application to receive a  
3 grant to administer the program. To be eligible to receive a  
4 grant to administer the program, an applicant shall submit the  
5 application to the department and meet all of the following  
6 criteria:

7 (1) The applicant shall be a Pennsylvania nonprofit  
8 organization or entity.

9 (2) The applicant shall submit a plan to the department for  
10 the preparation and development of the infrastructure necessary  
11 to administer the program for the sale of the targeted food  
12 items specified under subsection (c) at participating food  
13 retailers, including farmers markets, farm stands, mobile  
14 markets, community supported agriculture sites, corner stores,  
15 rural grocery stores and supermarkets.

16 (3) The applicant shall conduct research and evaluate the  
17 program in accordance with any requirements of the Federal or  
18 State grants awarded for the program.

19 (4) The applicant shall evaluate the impact of the program  
20 on purchases made by SNAP recipients and the benefit of the  
21 purchases for farmers and businesses in this Commonwealth.

22 (5) The applicant shall commit to using no less than the  
23 minimum percentage of funds required for benefit incentives to  
24 qualify for a Federal large-scale project grant under the  
25 Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334, 132  
26 Stat. 4490) through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive  
27 Program.

28 (6) The applicant shall agree to provide a benefit incentive  
29 of no less than forty cents (40¢) to a SNAP recipient for every  
30 one dollar (\$1) of SNAP benefits redeemed by the SNAP recipient

1 for the targeted food items specified under subsection (c).

2 (7) The applicant shall agree to coordinate the marketing of  
3 the program with the Pennsylvania Preferred® Program under 3  
4 Pa.C.S. Ch. 46 Subch. B (relating to Pennsylvania Preferred®  
5 Program).

6 (8) The applicant shall give preference to retailers and  
7 markets who sell Pennsylvania-grown agricultural commodities or  
8 agricultural commodities designated with the Pennsylvania  
9 Preferred® trademark as defined in 3 Pa.C.S. § 4602 (relating to  
10 definitions).

11 (c) To be eligible for a benefit incentive under the  
12 program, the targeted food items shall meet the criteria  
13 specified in the definition of "food" in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(k)  
14 (relating to definitions) and shall include fruits and  
15 vegetables, whether fresh, canned, dried or frozen whole or cut  
16 without added sugars, fats, oils or salt.

17 (d) The mechanism for delivering benefit incentives under  
18 the program shall be determined by a grantee selected to  
19 administer the program under subsection (b) in conjunction with  
20 the department.

21 (e) The department, in conjunction with the Department of  
22 Agriculture, may use all of the following for the administration  
23 of the program:

24 (1) A Federal large-scale project grant under the  
25 Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 through the Gus Schumacher  
26 Nutrition Incentive Program.

27 (2) Money appropriated by the General Assembly for benefits  
28 for the program.

29 (3) Any other money made available for the program.

30 (f) As used in this section, the following words and phrases

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

2 "Program" means the Pennsylvania Preferred® Food Bucks  
3 Program established under subsection (a).

4 "SNAP" means the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
5 Program.

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