

SB 727 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services (DHS) to adopt by rule program to provide funds to assist participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables from participating farmer's markets, farm share sites and food outlets. Requires program to match amounts recipients spend on eligible foods. Requires report by December 31, 2020, as specified. Appropriates \$3,000,000 General Fund dollars to DHS for implementation. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federally funded program which offers nutrition assistance to low income individuals and families. In January 2019, the Department of Human Services provided SNAP benefits to 355,628 families for a total of 609,327 individuals. According to the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are currently 3,327 Oregon retailers participating in the SNAP program.

Senate Bill 727 appropriates \$3,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement a program assisting SNAP participants in purchasing locally grown fruits and vegetables from participating farmer's markets, farm share sites and food outlets. The measure also requires the program to match amounts participants spend on eligible foods and directs DHS to review the program outcomes, including the impact on purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables, and prepare and make public a report describing findings no later than December 31, 2020.