

HB 4088 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

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Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group and be advised by said group on the implementation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).

Directs DHS to solicit public feedback on the plan developed by this work group. Specifies SNAP participants eligibility for Restaurant Meals Program.

Directs DHS to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services by January 31, 2023 on the implementation plan.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for legislation and capacity of ODHS to implement provisions
- Representation from the restaurant industry on work group
- Restaurant opt-in options, seeing USDA approval to join program, specific menu items

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4

Directs work group membership to include individuals representing the geographic and racial or ethnic diversity of this state who have expertise in food insecurity or experience receiving SNAP benefits, the restaurant industry, or working with seniors, persons with disabilities, and homeless individuals.

Specifies that the Restaurant Meals Program implementation plan needs to include recommendations for program evaluation of access, efficacy, and cost.

BACKGROUND:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants cannot use their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card at restaurants to purchase hot food or food intended for immediate consumption unless their State participates in the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) that serves the elderly, disabled, and/or homeless. The SNAP Restaurant Meal Program is a special state-run program that allows elderly, homeless, and disabled SNAP recipients to purchase food at SNAP authorized restaurants using their SNAP EBT cards. Under the Restaurant Meals Program, participating restaurants must offer meals at concessional prices.

House Bill 4088 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group to advise the department on the implementation of the SNAP RMP.