

HB 4088 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 02/10/22

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Nelson, Owens, Ruiz, Scharf, Schouten, Williams

Exc: 1 - Noble

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Iva Sokolovska, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/3, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a work group to provide advice and develop a plan to implement the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). Specifies work group composition and directs DHS to solicit public feedback on the plan. Specifies SNAP participants' eligibility for RMP. Directs DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly by January 31, 2023. Specifies that RMP implementation must include recommendations for program evaluation of access, efficacy, and cost. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for legislation and DHS' capacity to implement provisions
- Restaurant industry representation on work group
- Restaurant opt-in options and menu items requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires work group to include individuals representing the geographic and racial or ethnic diversity of the 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. Requires the RMP implementation plan to include recommendations for program evaluation of access, efficacy, and cost.

BACKGROUND:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients cannot use their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card at restaurants to purchase hot food or food intended for immediate consumption unless the administering state participates in the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). SNAP RMP is a special state-run program that allows elderly, homeless, and disabled SNAP recipients to purchase food at SNAP authorized restaurants using their EBT card.

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