

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 1585

Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Campos

SB 1585 establishes the Task Force on Maximizing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits. The role of the task force is to review options and make recommendations to DHS for allowing SNAP recipients to use their benefit to purchase hot, ready-to-eat meals, including restaurant meals. Nine other states offer this option for certain SNAP participants who might not be able to safely prepare meals for themselves or who do not have permanent housing for storing and preparing food.

The bill requires DHS to staff the task force, seek approval from the federal government, and implement task force recommendations --either statewide or as a pilot program-- within 12 months of federal approval. In the current biennium, the measure is estimated to cost \$481,371 General Fund, and \$698,970 Federal Funds, which includes support for IT system changes and four positions, three of which are limited duration.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends SB 1585 be amended by the –A5 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.