

H.271

An act relating to administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 17 is amended to read:

CHAPTER 17. ~~FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS~~
SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

§ 1701. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(a) The State of Vermont may participate in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ~~which is provided for under~~ (SNAP) pursuant to 7 U.S.C. chapter 51. The Commissioner may adopt, amend, or repeal rules governing the operation of the Program in the State. The purpose of SNAP is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among households with low income by increasing their food purchasing power and access to nutritious, safe food.

(b) An individual domiciled in Vermont shall be exempt from the disqualification provided for in 21 U.S.C. § 862a.

(c) The Commissioner may adopt, amend, or repeal rules governing the operation of the Program in the State pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25.

(d) ~~When As~~ used in this section chapter, “Commissioner” means the Commissioner for Children and Families and “Department” means the Department for Children and Families.

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§ 1703. CHANGES TO PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

(a)(1) The Department shall report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and any interested stakeholders within 30 days after any substantive change in the federal law governing SNAP that:

(A) restricts or improves eligibility;

(B) increases or reduces barriers or creates or eliminates hardships to access; or

(C) inhibits or increases benefit usage.

(2) Within 90 days after a change described pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Department shall provide an analysis to the Chairs of any anticipated administrative costs to the Department and any impacts on SNAP applicants and participants as a result of the change.

(b) The Commissioner may convene a meeting of interested stakeholders to discuss a change listed in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.