

Memorandum

To: Rep. Ann Pugh, Chair, House Human Services
From: Karen Vastine, Senior Advisor to the DCF Commissioner
Re: H.271
Date: January 25, 2018

Please find in this memo language that we would like to suggest the committee consider for H.271. After productive conversations with our stakeholder partners from Hunger Free Vermont, we came to the approach outlined below. In the event that there are changes in federal law that would have a significant impact to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—including restrictions to eligibility, increased barriers to access, or that would hinder benefits usage for applicants or participants—DCF would notify the chairs of the House Human Services and Senate Health & Welfare Committees. Additionally, the Commissioner of DCF can pull together a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the changes and potential impacts.

We look forward to discussing this with you and the members of your committee.

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 low-income households by increasing their food purchasing power and access to nutritious and safe food.~~

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





(c) When used in this section, “Commissioner” means the Commissioner for Children and Families and “Department” means the Department for Children and Families.

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§ 1703. FEDERAL CHANGES IN PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

(a) The Department shall report to the chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare any change in the federal law governing SNAP that restricts eligibility, increases barriers or creates hardships to access, or inhibits benefits usage for applicants or participants within the state within 30 days of the change. The Department will provide an analysis of the administrative costs and impacts on SNAP applicants and participants of any such change to the chairs of the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare within 90 days of the change.

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

