

Memorandum

To: Senator Clair Ayer, Chair, Senate Health & Welfare
From: Karen Vastine, Senior Advisor to the DCF Commissioner
Re: H.271: SNAP Administration
Date: March 26, 2018

H.271 provides direction to the Department for Children & Families (DCF) regarding communication to legislators and the field in the event there are changes in federal law that would have a significant impact to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These changes include restrictions to eligibility, increased barriers to access, or changes that would hinder benefits usage for applicants or participants. The bill requires that DCF notify the chairs of the House Human Services and Senate Health & Welfare Committees. Additionally, the Commissioner of DCF can convene a meeting with interested stakeholders to discuss the changes and potential impacts.

While DCF has demonstrated its commitment to notify those impacted when there are policy changes that will affect Vermonters, the intention of the bill is to ensure a continuation of this commitment. The language in the bill is the result of productive conversations between Hunger Free Vermont and DCF. DCF is in support of this approach.

