

1 H.151

2 Introduced by Representatives McGill of Bridport, Burrows of West Windsor,
3 Cole of Hartford, Headrick of Burlington, McCann of
4 Montpelier, Morrow of Weston, Pouech of Hinesburg, and
5 Waszazak of Barre City

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Human services; food insecurity; 3SquaresVT; Restaurant Meals
9 Program

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to implement the
11 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's Restaurant Meals Program in
12 Vermont.

13 An act relating to implementing the Restaurant Meals Program

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

15 * * * Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Generally * * *

16 Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 1701 is amended to read:

17 § 1701. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

18 (a) The State of Vermont ~~may~~ shall participate in the federal Supplemental
19 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) pursuant to 7 U.S.C. chapter 51. The
20 purpose of SNAP is to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among households

1 with low income by increasing their food purchasing power and access to
2 nutritious, safe food.

3 * * *

4 * * * Restaurant Meals Program * * *

5 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 1704 is added to read:

6 § 1704. RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM

7 (a) The State shall participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
8 Program's Restaurant Meals Program. The Restaurant Meals Program shall be
9 administered by the Agency of Human Services, in consultation with the
10 Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

11 (b) Restaurant participation in the Restaurant Meals Program shall be
12 voluntary. The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with the Agency of
13 Commerce and Community Development, shall develop and publish on its
14 website a list of eligibility criteria for restaurant participation in the Restaurant
15 Meals Program, including that participating restaurants are licensed pursuant to
16 18 V.S.A. chapter 85. The eligibility criteria shall advance the following
17 goals:

18 (1) Locally produced foods are widely available to Restaurant Meals
19 Program clients.

20 (2) Restaurants serving foods that represent diverse cultural traditions
21 participate in the Restaurant Meals Program.

1 (3) Participating restaurants are located in geographically diverse
2 regions of the State and in areas with significant populations of eligible
3 program participants.

4 (c) The Agency of Human Services, in consultation with the Agency of
5 Commerce and Community Development, shall provide technical assistance to
6 those restaurants applying to and participating in the Restaurant Meals
7 Program.

8 Sec. 3. ADOPTION OF RESRATAURANT MEALS PROGRAM

9 The Agency of Human Services shall work in collaboration with the U.S.
10 Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service to adopt the
11 Restaurant Meals Program in Vermont pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 1704.
12 Documents submitted to the Food and Nutrition Services shall include a
13 comprehensive implementation plan describing criteria for participating
14 restaurants and a template of the memorandum of understanding that shall be
15 used by the Agency and participating restaurants.

16 Sec. 4. POSITION AUTHORIZATION; APPROPRIATION; RESTAURANT
17 MEALS PROGRAM

18 (a) In fiscal year 2026, one new permanent classified position, Restaurant
19 Meals Program Coordinator, is authorized for establishment within the Agency
20 of Human Services.

