



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 364***

LCO No. 2367



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-105a of the general statutes is amended by  
2 adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective from passage*):

3 (NEW) (d) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Social  
4 Services shall stagger distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance  
5 program benefits so that benefits are distributed at four intervals during  
6 a month. The commissioner shall implement the staggered distribution  
7 of benefits in a manner that shall minimize any delay in distribution of  
8 benefits from the date beneficiaries would have received benefits prior  
9 to implementation. The commissioner shall file a report, in accordance  
10 with the provisions of section 11-4a, not later than October 1, 2024, with  
11 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having  
12 cognizance of matters relating to human services on the distribution  
13 plan and a follow-up report to the committee not later than January 1,  
14 2026, on implementation of the plan.

15 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)

16 "Restaurant Meals Program" means a United States Department of  
17 Agriculture program that allows an eligible supplemental nutrition  
18 assistance program beneficiary to purchase meals at participating  
19 restaurants with their benefits, and (2) "eligible beneficiary" means a  
20 supplemental nutrition assistance program beneficiary who is sixty  
21 years of age or older, disabled, homeless or the spouse of an eligible  
22 supplemental nutrition assistance program beneficiary.

23 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a plan to  
24 participate in the Restaurant Meals Program that offers a variety of  
25 restaurant choices and healthy meal options for an eligible beneficiary  
26 throughout the state. Not later than October 1, 2024, the commissioner  
27 shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
28 the general statutes, on the plan with the joint standing committee of the  
29 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human  
30 services. The commissioner shall submit a formal application for state  
31 participation in the plan with the United States Department of  
32 Agriculture not later than December 1, 2024.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	17b-105a(d)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To stagger distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and require state participation in a federal program that allows beneficiaries to purchase meals at participating restaurants.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*