



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 364

February Session, 2024



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) The Commissioner of Social Services shall stagger
4 distribution of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for
5 beneficiaries newly enrolled in the program on and after January 1, 2025,
6 so that such benefits are distributed at multiple intervals during a
7 month. The commissioner shall file a report, in accordance with the
8 provisions of section 11-4a, not later than October 1, 2024, with the joint
9 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
10 matters relating to human services on the distribution plan and a follow-
11 up report to the committee not later than January 1, 2026, on
12 implementation of the plan.

13 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, (1)
14 "Restaurant Meals Program" means a United States Department of
15 Agriculture program that allows an eligible supplemental nutrition
16 assistance program beneficiary to purchase meals at participating
17 restaurants or other prepared food vendors with their benefits, and (2)
18 "eligible beneficiary" means a supplemental nutrition assistance
19 program beneficiary who is sixty years of age or older, disabled,

20 homeless or the spouse of an eligible beneficiary.

21 (b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall study how best to
22 utilize state participation in the Restaurant Meals Program in a manner
23 that would offer an eligible beneficiary a variety of restaurant choices
24 and healthy meal options state-wide with minimal impact to grocery
25 store access. Not later than October 1, 2024, the commissioner shall file
26 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
27 statutes, on the study with the joint standing committee of the General
28 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services.

29 (c) The report shall include, but need not be limited to, the
30 commissioner's recommendations concerning (1) recruiting a variety of
31 restaurants and prepared food vendors to participate in the program,
32 (2) efficient and accessible payment options for such restaurants and
33 food vendors, (3) steps to ensure the viability of an adequate pool of
34 grocery stores to serve eligible beneficiaries and other beneficiaries of
35 the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and (4) costs associated
36 with recruiting restaurants and other prepared food vendors and
37 establishing efficient and accessible payment options.

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 Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(d), "any beneficiary" was changed to "beneficiaries" and "such beneficiary's benefits" was changed to "such benefits" for clarity.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*