
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 364

AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to stagger distribution for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits starting January 1, 2025, for new SNAP enrollees. For these enrollees, the bill requires DSS to distribute the benefits at multiple intervals during a month. (In practice, DSS currently distributes benefits on the first three days of the month, based on the enrollee's last name.) It requires DSS to report to the Human Services Committee by October 1, 2024, on the distribution plan and by January 1, 2026, on the plan's implementation.

The bill also requires DSS to study how best to use state participation in the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) to offer eligible SNAP beneficiaries various state-wide restaurant choices and healthy meal options with minimal impact to grocery store access. DSS must report its findings to the Human Services Committee by October 1, 2024. The report must include recommendations on the following topics:

1. recruiting a variety of restaurants and prepared food vendors to participate in the program, and associated costs;
2. efficient and accessible payment options for restaurants and food vendors, and associated costs; and
3. steps to ensure a viable, adequate pool of grocery stores to serve RMP-eligible beneficiaries and other SNAP beneficiaries.

RMP is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program that allows certain SNAP beneficiaries to buy meals at participating restaurants or other

prepared food vendors with their benefits. People who are at least 60 years old, disabled, or homeless are RMP-eligible, as are their spouses. The program is a state option and Connecticut does not currently participate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 1 (03/19/2024)