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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENTAL
PAYMENTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN
RHODE ISLAND ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Sanchez, Giraldo, Cruz, J. Lombardi, Casimiro, Potter,
McNamara, Shallcross Smith, Handy, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: February 15, 2024

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 40 of the General Laws entitled "HUMAN SERVICES" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 6.7

4 THE RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL
5 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN RHODE ISLAND ACT

6 **40-6.7-1. Short title.**

7 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as "The Rhode Island Supplemental
8 Payments for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Rhode Island Act."

9 **40-6.7-2. Purpose and intent.**

10 The purpose of this chapter is to allocate three million dollars (\$3,000,000) from the state
11 budget to provide cash benefits to individuals who are receiving and qualify for food stamps, also
12 known as the supplemental nutrition assistance program, in Rhode Island. The intent is to offer
13 financial assistance to eligible recipients, enhancing their ability to meet basic needs, and to
14 alleviate economic hardship.

15 **40-6.7-3. Definitions.**

16 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 (1) "Allocation of funds" means the earmarking or setting aside of a specific amount of

1 money for a particular purpose. In this law, three million dollars (\$3,000,000) are allocated from
2 the state budget for the purpose of supplemental payments.

3 (2) "Amendments or adjustments" means any changes to the program, whether through
4 amendments or adjustments, are to be made through the legislative process, ensuring a transparent
5 and accountable approach to modifying the law.

6 (3) "Amount of supplemental payments" means that each eligible individual will receive a
7 monthly supplemental payment in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).

8 (4) "Cash benefits" means additional financial benefits provided to individuals who are
9 already receiving food stamps. These payments aim to further support and assist recipients in
10 meeting their basic needs.

11 (5) "Duration of supplemental payments" means the duration of supplemental payments is
12 outlined to commence from the date of enactment of the law and continue until the allocated funds
13 are depleted, unless additional funds are allocated to sustain the payments.

14 (6) "Financial assistance" means the provision of monetary support to individuals or groups
15 facing economic challenges. In this case, the law aims to offer financial assistance to eligible food
16 stamp recipients.

17 (7) "Food stamp recipients" means individuals who qualify for and are currently receiving
18 assistance through the state's food stamp program, designed to alleviate food insecurity and provide
19 nutritional support to eligible individuals.

20 (8) "Food stamps" means the supplemental nutrition assistance program, sometimes
21 referred to as "SNAP," as defined in § 40-6-8.

22 (9) "Legislative process" means the formal steps and procedures followed by the state
23 legislature to propose, debate, and enact laws. Amendments or adjustments to the program must
24 adhere to this established process.

25 (10) "Monitoring and reporting" means the department of human services is required to
26 regularly monitor the distribution of supplemental payments and provide reports to the state
27 legislature on the status of funds and the impact of the program.

28 (11) "Number of individuals" means the reports must include information on the number
29 of individuals receiving supplemental payments, offering insights into the reach and effectiveness
30 of the financial assistance program.

31 (12) "Recommendations for program improvement" means the reports submitted to the
32 state legislature should include any recommendations for program improvement, reflecting a
33 commitment to enhancing the effectiveness of the supplemental payments initiative.

34 (13) "Review and reappropriation" means the state legislature is mandated to periodically

1 review the effectiveness of the program and may consider reappropriating funds as needed to
2 sustain and enhance the supplemental payments to food stamp recipients.

3 (14) "Rhode Island department of human services" or "department" means the department
4 responsible for overseeing social service programs and initiatives in Rhode Island. In this context,
5 it is tasked with administering the distribution of funds and ensuring eligible individuals receive
6 supplemental payments.

7 (15) "State budget" means the financial plan of the state, outlining the allocation of funds
8 for different purposes.

9 (16) "Sustain and enhance" means the goal of reappropriating funds is to sustain and
10 enhance the supplemental payments, emphasizing a commitment to ongoing support and potential
11 improvements for food stamp recipients in Rhode Island.

12 (17) "Timely manner" means that the distribution of supplemental payments should be
13 done promptly and without unnecessary delays to ensure recipients receive the financial support
14 when needed.

15 (18) "Total amount disbursed" means reports should detail the total amount of funds
16 disbursed as supplemental payments, providing transparency on the financial aspects of the
17 program.

18 **40-6.7-4. Allocation of Funds.**

19 (a) A sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) is hereby allocated from the fiscal year
20 2025 state budget for the purpose of supplemental payments to food stamp recipients.

21 (b) The department of human services is responsible for administering the distribution of
22 funds and ensuring that eligible individuals receive the supplemental payments in a timely manner.

23 **40-6.7-5. Amount and Duration of Supplemental Payments.**

24 (a) The supplemental payments shall be in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150)
25 per month for each eligible individual.

26 (b) The payments shall commence from the date of enactment of this chapter and continue
27 until the allocated funds are depleted unless additional funds are allocated to sustain the
28 supplemental payments.

29 **40-6.7-6. Monitoring and Reporting.**

30 (a) The department of human services shall regularly monitor the distribution of
31 supplemental payments and provide a report to the general assembly on the status of funds and the
32 impact of the program.

33 (b) The report shall include information on the number of individuals receiving
34 supplemental payments, the total amount disbursed, and any recommendations for program

1 [improvement.](#)

2 **40-6.7-7. Review and subsequent appropriations and funding.**

3 [\(a\) The general assembly shall review the effectiveness of this program periodically and](#)
4 [may consider reappropriating funds as needed to sustain and enhance the supplemental payments](#)
5 [to food stamp recipients.](#)

6 [\(b\) Any amendments or adjustments to the program shall be made through the legislative](#)
7 [process.](#)

8 **40-6.7-8. Commencement.**

9 [This program shall begin distributing funds on January 1, 2025.](#)

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- THE RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENTAL
PAYMENTS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN
RHODE ISLAND ACT

1 This act would direct the allocation of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) from the 2025
2 state budget to provide cash benefits to individuals who are receiving and qualify for the
3 supplemental nutrition assistance program or "SNAP" benefits.

4 This act would take effect on January 1, 2025.

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