

2022 -- H 7068

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Ruggiero, McEntee, Ajello, Carson, Donovan,
Cortvriend, Bennett, Shallcross Smith, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: January 12, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-6-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-6 entitled "Public
2 Assistance Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-6-8. Supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).**

4 (a) The department shall have the responsibility to administer the food stamp program for
5 the state in compliance with the provisions of the federal Food Stamp Act of 1964, as amended, 7
6 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq. The supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) is and shall be the
7 new title of the program formerly known as the food stamp program. All references in the Rhode
8 Island general laws to food stamps shall be deemed to mean, apply to, refer to, and be interpreted
9 in accordance with the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

10 (b) The department is empowered and authorized to submit its plan for food stamps to the
11 federal government, or any agency or department of it: [as follows:](#)

12 [\(1\)](#) The department shall act for the state in any negotiations relative to the submission and
13 approval of a plan, and may make any arrangement or changes in its plan not inconsistent with this
14 chapter that may be required by the Food Stamp Act or the rules and regulations promulgated
15 pursuant to it to obtain and retain such approval and to secure for this state the benefits of the
16 provisions of the federal act relating to food stamps.;

17 [\(2\)](#) The department shall make reports to the federal government, or any agency or
18 department of it, in the form and nature required by it, and in all respects comply with any request
19 or direction of the federal government, or any agency or department of it, that may be necessary to

1 assure the correctness and verification of the reports; and

2 (3) The department shall develop a plan to streamline the application, certification and
3 recertification process for SNAP beneficiaries aged sixty (60) years and over.

4 (c) The department is authorized and directed to pay one hundred percent (100%) of the
5 state's share of the administrative cost involved in the operation of the food stamp program.

6 (d) No person shall be ineligible for food stamp benefits due solely to the restricted
7 eligibility rules otherwise imposed by § 115(a)(2) of the Personal Responsibility and Work
8 Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-193), 21 U.S.C. § 862a(a)(2), and as this
9 section may hereafter be amended.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

1 This act would require the RI department of human services to develop a plan to streamline
2 the application, certification and recertification process for SNAP beneficiaries aged sixty years
3 and over.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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