

2023 -- H 5799

LC001786

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Cruz, Cotter, Giraldo, Stewart, McGaw,
McNamara, Speakman, Henries, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: February 22, 2023

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 40-6 of the General Laws entitled "Public Assistance Act" is hereby
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **40-6-8.3. Supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) - Additional benefits.**

4 (a) Findings.

5 (1) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, Pub. L. No. 116-127 (2020) (the "Act"),
6 authorized the United States Department of Agriculture to allow states to temporarily modify
7 procedures to make it easier for families to continue participating in or apply for supplemental
8 nutrition assistance program benefits, commonly referred to as "SNAP" benefits.

9 (2) The Act also authorized temporary benefits increases, authorized by Congress, to
10 address food insecurity.

11 (3) These temporary benefit increases are scheduled to end after the February 2023
12 issuances.

13 (4) The result of the end in these temporary benefit increases is that every household in
14 Rhode Island which receives SNAP benefits will experience a reduction in benefits of at least
15 ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per month.

16 (b) State to make temporary payment to offset ("offsets") the loss of benefits. Commencing
17 July 1, 2023, the department of human services is directed to pay an additional ninety-five dollars
18 (\$95.00) as an additional monthly benefit to each eligible recipient of SNAP benefits in the state,
19 through to December 1, 2023, to offset the loss of federal benefits.

1 (c) The department shall pursue financial assistance from the federal government to help
2 defray the fiscal impact of these offsets authorized by the section.

3 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 direct the department of human services commencing July 1, 2023, to pay
2 an additional SNAP benefit of \$95.00 per month, through to December 1, 2023, to offset the loss
3 in benefits due to the end of federal temporary benefit increases.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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