

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8247

## IN SENATE

April 27, 2020

Introduced by Sen. KAMINSKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to using supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to purchase online groceries and to the state supplemental nutrition assistance program outreach program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph a of subdivision 7 of section  
2 95 of the social services law, as separately amended by chapter 41 and  
3 section 3 of part A of chapter 57 of the laws of 2012, is amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (i) May be redeemed for SNAP benefits at designated redemption centers  
6 by the recipient or by an authorized representative. When an eligible  
7 recipient under this section is issued SNAP benefits, such SNAP benefits  
8 may be used to purchase food items from a food distributor by the recip-  
9 ient or by an authorized representative. Recipients shall be able to  
10 use SNAP benefits to purchase groceries from eligible online grocery  
11 retailers and to have groceries delivered pursuant to federal laws and  
12 regulations. The department shall enter into an agreement with any  
13 online grocery retailer that is eligible to participate in the federal  
14 SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot program or subsequent programs. Any other  
15 transfer or sale of authorizations to participate or SNAP benefits shall  
16 constitute an unauthorized use of said authorizations or benefits;

17 § 2. Section 95-a of the social services law, as added by chapter 546  
18 of the laws of 1978, is amended to read as follows:

19 § 95-a. State [~~food-stamp~~ supplemental nutrition assistance program  
20 outreach program. 1. In accordance with federal requirements and to  
21 the extent that federal matching funds are available, the department  
22 shall develop and implement an outreach plan to inform low-income house-  
23 holds potentially eligible to receive [~~food-stamps~~ supplemental nutri-  
24 tion assistance program benefits of the availability and benefits of the  
25 program, including information on the federal SNAP Online Purchasing

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 Pilot program or subsequent programs, and to encourage the participation  
2 of eligible households that wish to participate.

3 2. In developing and implementing such a plan the department and/or  
4 its local districts are authorized and empowered, subject to the  
5 approval of the director of the budget and provided that federal aid is  
6 available therefor, to enter into contractual agreements with public  
7 and/or private organizations to develop and implement local, regional,  
8 and statewide outreach programs.

9 3. Each commissioner of social services shall develop and submit to  
10 the department on an annual basis for its approval, a local outreach  
11 plan governing the use of local social services personnel and services  
12 provided by federally funded and other agencies and organizations to  
13 inform potentially eligible households of the availability and benefits  
14 of the program and to encourage and facilitate the participation of  
15 eligible households. The department shall provide commissioners of  
16 social services with technical assistance as needed to carry out the  
17 provisions of this subdivision.

18 4. As part of each local outreach plan, social services officials  
19 shall take all steps necessary to maintain a supply of information leaf-  
20 lets in public buildings, including but not limited to local unemploy-  
21 ment insurance and employment services offices of the department of  
22 labor, institutions and facilities under the supervision or control of  
23 the department of health, food stores, union halls, community centers  
24 and local agencies providing services to the elderly to help insure that  
25 eligible persons are informed of the [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition  
26 assistance program.

27 5. The department shall periodically distribute to all newspapers, and  
28 to television and radio stations throughout the state, public service  
29 announcements describing the [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition assist-  
30 ance program, including the toll-free telephone numbers for [~~food-stamp~~]  
31 supplemental nutrition assistance program information, and shall prompt-  
32 ly inform such media of significant changes in the program affecting  
33 eligibility requirements and/or the amount of the [~~food-stamp~~] supple-  
34 mental nutrition assistance program bonus.

35 6. The department shall establish procedures in cooperation with the  
36 industrial commissioner of the department of labor to ensure that infor-  
37 mational leaflets about the [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition assist-  
38 ance program are sent to each local employment services office for  
39 distribution pursuant to section five hundred [~~and~~] forty of the labor  
40 law. Each leaflet shall include but not be limited to: the phone number  
41 for the New York State [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition assistance  
42 hotline, estimated maximum income eligibility levels by household size  
43 for participation in the [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition assistance  
44 program and the availability of local social services departments to  
45 provide additional information about the program.

46 7. In accordance with applicable federal laws, rules and regulations  
47 the department shall make available appropriate bilingual materials so  
48 that potentially eligible non English speaking individuals may be  
49 informed about the [~~food-stamp~~] supplemental nutrition assistance  
50 program.

51 8. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations, and take  
52 all other actions necessary for the effective implementation of this  
53 section.

54 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.