STATE OF NEW YORK

7663

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

September 22, 2023

Introduced by Sen. MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing a state SNAP minimum benefit program

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 95-b to read as follows:

§ 95-b. State SNAP minimum benefit program. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, there is hereby established a state SNAP minimum benefit program. Under such program, the office shall distribute to each eligible household a monthly state SNAP benefit equal to the difference between the household's federal SNAP monthly benefit and ninety-five dollars, which amount may be increased by the office as deemed appropriate and subject to available state appropriations. If federal funds become available for the purposes of this subdivision, the office shall utilize such federal funds as the primary source for issuing the monthly state SNAP benefit before state funds, if necessary, are expended. The state SNAP benefit shall be provided to an eligible household in addition to the federal SNAP benefit.

2. The program shall be subject to the same state rules and procedures for implementing the federal SNAP to the greatest extent possible, including, but not limited to, distributing the state SNAP benefit using the program's electronic benefit transfer system and requiring that benefits be used solely for the purchase of food as defined in 7 U.S.C. s.2012.

3. The office shall apply to the food and nutrition service within the federal department of agriculture for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement the provisions of this section.

4. As used in this section:

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

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(a) "Eligible household" means a household that is certified to receive a federal SNAP benefit of at least one dollar per month but less than ninety-five dollars per month, or a larger amount as deemed appropriate by the office pursuant to subdivision one of this section, subject to available state and federal funds.

(b) "SNAP" means the supplemental nutrition assistance program established pursuant to section ninety-five of this title.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.