STATE OF NEW YORK

1902

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 17, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to providing notice to unemployment applicants of the supplemental nutrition assistance program and special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children; and to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring an outreach program for WIC

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

Section 1. Section 540 of the labor law, as amended by chapter 251 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

§ 540. Information about [~~food stamp~~] **supplemental nutrition assistance and special supplemental nutrition**, utility, and rental and mortgage assistance programs. The commissioner shall establish procedures whereby each person who files a claim for unemployment insurance pursuant to section five hundred ninety-six of this article, shall receive information about the [~~food stamp~~] **supplemental nutrition assistance** program provided by the office of temporary and disability assistance pursuant to subdivision six of section ninety-five-a of the social services law**, the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children administered by the department of health pursuant to section twenty-five hundred seven-a of the public health law,** and the utility assistance and rental and mortgage assistance programs available through the division of housing and community renewal and the office of temporary and disability assistance. The commissioner shall also provide information about such programs on the department's website. Such information shall be prominently displayed and easily accessible by individuals filing a claim or certifying for unemployment benefits.

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2507-a to read as follows:

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

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§ 2507-a. Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children; outreach program. 1. In accordance with federal requirements and to the extent that federal matching funds are available, the department shall develop and implement an outreach plan to inform low-income households potentially eligible to receive special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children (WIC) benefits of the availability and benefits of the program, and to encourage the participation of eligible households that wish to participate.

2. The department shall establish procedures in cooperation with the commissioner of the department of labor to ensure that informational leaflets about the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children are sent to each local employment services office for distribution pursuant to section five hundred forty of the labor law. Each leaflet shall include but not be limited to: contact information for the New York state special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children program, estimated maximum income eligibility levels by household size for participation in the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children program and the availability of local social services departments to provide additional information about the program.

3. In accordance with applicable federal laws, rules and regulations the department shall make available appropriate bilingual materials so that potentially eligible non-English speaking individuals may be informed about the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.