



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7021

LCO No. 3592



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-791 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall establish a supplemental
4 nutrition commodities assistance program to provide funds for the
5 purchase of produce, high protein foods or other nutritionally beneficial
6 supplemental foods [, or both,] for soup kitchens, food pantries and
7 emergency shelters. Such foods shall be purchased in bulk by [the
8 Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut Foodshare through in-state
9 wholesalers or brokers, or both, and allotted to existing soup kitchens,
10 food pantries and emergency shelters in accordance with the established
11 policies of [the Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut Foodshare.

12 (b) At least fifteen per cent of funds appropriated for the program
13 pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be used in each fiscal year to
14 purchase produce or other products from Connecticut farmers. Within
15 available appropriations, funds appropriated pursuant to section 2 of

16 this act shall be increased not less than three per cent each fiscal year
17 beginning July 1, 2026. Such soup kitchens, food pantries and
18 emergency shelters [shall pay] may be charged a handling [charge of]
19 fee of up to five cents per pound in order to cover the costs incurred by
20 [the Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut Foodshare. The food shall be
21 distributed free of charge by the soup kitchens, food pantries and
22 emergency shelters.

23 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of ten million dollars is
24 appropriated to the Department of Social Services from the General
25 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the supplemental
26 nutrition commodities assistance program established pursuant to
27 section 17b-791 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-791
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To increase funding for nutrition assistance and support the purchase of fresh produce.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]