
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 40 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, KINSEY, HARKINS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, HILL-
EVANS, DELLOSO, FREEMAN, SAMUELSON, BURGOS, KHAN, KINKEAD,
PARKER, SCHWEYER, DEASY, MERSKI, HOWARD, SCOTT AND CONKLIN,
MARCH 17, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 17, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a legislative task force on the loss of
2 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits in 2023
3 due to increased Social Security payments and the end of
4 SNAP emergency allotment payments; and directing the Joint
5 State Government Commission to study the impact of the loss
6 of SNAP benefits in 2023 due to increased Social Security
7 payments and the end of the SNAP emergency allotment payments
8 and to establish an advisory committee.

9 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
10 is a vital public assistance program that provides money to low-
11 income Americans to purchase food; and

12 WHEREAS, Nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians currently rely on
13 SNAP to ensure that they have enough food on the table; and

14 WHEREAS, SNAP eligibility is determined in part by monthly
15 income calculations under Federal law; and

16 WHEREAS, Social Security income is calculated as part of
17 income for SNAP eligibility; and

18 WHEREAS, Social Security income is directly tied to cost-of-
19 living increases as measured by the Department of Labor's
20 Consumer Price Index; and

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index has
2 risen sharply since 2021 due to inflation; and

3 WHEREAS, Social Security payments increased by an average of
4 \$140 per month starting in January 2023 due to inflation; and

5 WHEREAS, This rise in Social Security payments is leading to
6 an average decrease of \$40 per month in SNAP payments for
7 249,000 Pennsylvania households; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 5,000 to 20,000 Pennsylvania
9 households will be pushed out of SNAP eligibility entirely due
10 to Social Security payment increases; and

11 WHEREAS, To help low-income individuals and families
12 throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Government
13 provided SNAP emergency allotment payments that provided
14 households with an extra SNAP benefit payment each month; and

15 WHEREAS, Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023,
16 Congress ended funding for SNAP emergency allotment payments;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, This monthly extra payment raised a household's
19 monthly SNAP benefit to the maximum benefit available to a
20 household of its size, or an extra \$95, whichever was higher;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Independent Fiscal Office estimates
23 the end of SNAP emergency allotment payments will contribute to
24 between a \$100 to \$175 decrease in monthly benefits for
25 Pennsylvanians; and

26 WHEREAS, This combined loss of SNAP benefits will be
27 devastating for Pennsylvania households throughout 2023 and
28 beyond; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a
30 legislative task force on the loss of Supplemental Nutrition

1 Assistance Program benefits in 2023 due to increased Social
2 Security payments and the end of the SNAP emergency allotment
3 payments; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of six members of the
5 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House
6 of Representatives, three members recommended by the Majority
7 Leader of the House of Representatives and three members
8 recommended by the Minority Leader of the House of
9 Representatives; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
11 State Government Commission to assist the task force and conduct
12 a study on the impact of the loss of SNAP benefits in 2023 due
13 to increased Social Security payments and the end of the SNAP
14 emergency allotment payments; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
16 ways to offset these losses for SNAP recipients, how to further
17 tackle food insecurity in Pennsylvania and how to ensure that
18 all who are eligible for SNAP can access the program; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That, in studying how to offset SNAP losses, tackle
21 food insecurity and ensure access to SNAP, the Joint State
22 Government Commission consider possible roles for both private
23 and public entities in meeting these goals; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
25 of its study, establish an advisory committee consisting of the
26 following members:

27 (1) a representative recommended by the Secretary of
28 Human Services;

29 (2) a representative recommended by the Secretary of
30 Agriculture;

1 (3) a representative recommended by a public assistance
2 beneficiary advocacy group;

3 (4) a representative who will lose SNAP benefits in 2023
4 due to the end of SNAP emergency allotment payments;

5 (5) a representative who will lose SNAP benefits in 2023
6 due to increases in Social Security payments; and

7 (6) any other representatives from other organizations
8 that are deemed appropriate by the Joint State Government
9 Commission;

10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
12 report with its findings and recommendations no later than six
13 months after the adoption of this resolution to all of the
14 following:

15 (1) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.

16 (2) The President pro tempore of the Senate.

17 (3) The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

18 (4) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

19 (5) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

20 (6) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

21 (7) The chair and minority chair of the Human Services
22 Committee of the House of Representatives.

23 (8) The chair and minority chair of the Health and Human
24 Services Committee of the Senate.

25 (9) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
26 Committee of the House of Representatives.

27 (10) The chair and minority chair of the Appropriations
28 Committee of the Senate.