

2022 -- H 7490

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Barros, Giraldo, Kislak, Casimiro, Solomon, Alzate,  
Felix, Cassar, and Messier

Date Introduced: February 16, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 40-6 of the General Laws entitled "Public Assistance Act" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **40-6-8.2. Establishment of retail SNAP incentives program.**

4           (a) There shall be established a separate fund to be known as the retail SNAP incentives  
5 program (RSIP) fund. The department of human services shall administer the fund. The fund shall  
6 be allocated the amount the department deems necessary to effectuate the program, from funds not  
7 otherwise expended in the general fund. The fund shall be expended first for the implementation  
8 and administration of the retail SNAP incentives program to promote healthy food access and  
9 nutrition among Rhode Island SNAP recipients.

10           (b) SNAP recipients will receive a minimum fifty cents (\$0.50) credit on their electronic  
11 benefit transfer (EBT) card for each one dollar (\$1.00) spent on eligible fruits and vegetables at  
12 participating RSIP retailers, up to a monthly limit as determined by the department. These credits  
13 shall be funded via the RSIP fund established in this section.

14           (c) The department shall provide an annual report to the general assembly regarding the  
15 amount of credits issued pursuant to this section.

16           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

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1           This act would allow SNAP recipients to receive a minimum of fifty cents (\$0.50) credit  
2   on their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, for each one dollar (\$1.00) spent on fruits and  
3   vegetables. The department of human services would create a separate SNAP fund and allocate  
4   funds from the general fund to effectuate this act.

5           This act would take effect on January 1, 2023.

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