SENATE BILL REPORT
SHB 1499

As of March 6, 2023

Title: An act relating to food assistance funding.

Brief Description: Concerning food assistance funding.

Sponsors: House Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Shavers, Ramel, Santos, Leavitt, Gregerson, Bateman, Ormsby, Doglio, Pollet, Reed, Ortiz-Self, Stonier and Fosse).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/28/23, 95-2.
    Committee Activity: Human Services: 3/09/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that up to 25 percent of food assistance program funding provided by the Washington Department of Agriculture to food banks may be used for essential nonfood items, including diapers, feminine products, and hygiene products.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7488)

Background: The Washington State Department of Agriculture (AGR) administers state and federal food assistance programs, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). The goal of EFAP is alleviate hunger by providing funds, technical assistance, and information to community programs that delivery emergency goods and services to hungry people. Food banks, backpack programs, home delivery, mobile food pantries and voucher programs participate in EFAP.

Essential non-food items may be purchased with EFAP funds, but these purchases cannot exceed 10 percent of the funding allocation.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: Up to 25 percent of food assistance program funding provided by AGR to food banks may be used for essential nonfood items, including diapers, feminine products, and hygiene products.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.