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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1146

02/19/2025 Authored by Coulter, Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Hicks, Xiong, Greene and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to food support; establishing the Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors
1.3 program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 142F.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. 142F.121 MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR SENIORS PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Program established. The commissioner of children, youth, and families
1.8 shall establish the Minnesota SNAP step up for seniors program to supplement the minimum
1.9 monthly benefit amount for eligible seniors who receive federal Supplemental Nutrition
1.10 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

1.11 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
1.12 meanings given.

1.13 (b) "Eligible senior" means an individual age 55 or older.

1.14 (c) "Minimum monthly benefit amount" means \$50.

1.15 Subd. 3. Supplemental benefit. Under this program, if a household includes an eligible
1.16 senior and receives a federally funded SNAP benefit of less than the minimum monthly
1.17 benefit amount, the state shall provide a supplement to increase the total benefit to at least
1.18 the minimum monthly benefit amount. Households with an eligible senior must receive the
1.19 supplemental benefit under this section in addition to the federal SNAP benefit.

1.20 Subd. 4. Prohibition on counting supplemental benefit as income. The benefit amount
1.21 received by an eligible senior or household under this section is not counted as income for
1.22 any program that does not count SNAP benefits as income.

2.1 Subd. 5. **Program administration.** (a) The program under this section is subject to the  
2.2 same federal and state regulations, rules, and procedures for implementing the federal SNAP  
2.3 as much as possible, including but not limited to distributing the program benefit amount  
2.4 through the SNAP electronic benefit transfer system.

2.5 (b) The commissioner may increase the minimum monthly benefit amount established  
2.6 in this section as deemed appropriate and subject to state appropriations and federal funding.

2.7 (c) If federal funds become available for the purpose of this section, the commissioner  
2.8 shall utilize the federal funds as the primary source for issuing the monthly supplemental  
2.9 benefit before any state funds are used.

2.10 Sec. 2. **FEDERAL WAIVER OR APPROVAL; MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR**  
2.11 **SENIORS PROGRAM.**

2.12 The commissioner of human services shall apply to the United States Department of  
2.13 Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service for any necessary waivers or approvals to implement  
2.14 the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 142F.121.

2.15 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA SNAP STEP UP FOR SENIORS**  
2.16 **PROGRAM.**

2.17 \$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$..... in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general  
2.18 fund to the commissioner of children, youth, and families for the Minnesota SNAP step up  
2.19 for seniors program under Minnesota Statutes, section 142F.121.