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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4517

03/04/2024 Authored by Keeler; Kotyza-Witthuhn; Wolgamott; Hanson, J.; Coulter and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy
03/18/2024 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Higher Education Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; modifying SNAP eligibility for students enrolled in
1.3 higher education; requiring reports; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 256D.

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

1.6 Section 1. [256D.66] MODIFYING SNAP ELIGIBILITY; STUDENTS ENROLLED
1.7 IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Guidance letter. By September 1, 2024, the commissioner of human
1.9 services must issue a guidance letter to counties and Minnesota public postsecondary
1.10 institutions that does the following:

1.11 (1) clarifies the state and federal eligibility requirements for a program at a Minnesota
1.12 public postsecondary institution to be a state-approved local educational program that
1.13 increases employability that qualifies for the student exemption for supplemental nutrition
1.14 assistance program (SNAP) eligibility, as described in the Code of Federal Regulations,
1.15 title 7, section 273.5(b)(11)(iv), and is consistent with the Code of Federal Regulations, title
1.16 7, section 273.7(e)(1);

1.17 (2) clarifies the application and approval process for a program to be approved by the
1.18 commissioner as a state-approved local educational program that increases employability,
1.19 as described in clause (1), including but not limited to clarifying the supporting documents
1.20 required for program approval; and

1.21 (3) states that a student enrolled at a four-year Minnesota public postsecondary institution
1.22 with an approved campus-based program may not receive SNAP benefits under this section
1.23 unless they are eligible for a federal Pell grant.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Certification application.** A program at a Minnesota public postsecondary  
2.2 institution that meets the eligibility requirements to be a state-approved local educational  
2.3 program that increases employability on or before January 1, 2025, must submit a certification  
2.4 application to the commissioner. A program that meets the eligibility requirements after  
2.5 January 1, 2025, must submit a certification application within six months following the  
2.6 formation of the program. If the program is available at more than one campus, the  
2.7 application must list each campus at which the program is available.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Approval of campus-based programs.** Upon receipt of a certification  
2.9 application from a program pursuant to subdivision 2, the commissioner must approve the  
2.10 program if it meets the eligibility requirements to be a state-approved local educational  
2.11 program that increases employability, as established in the guidance letter issued by the  
2.12 commissioner under subdivision 1. The commissioner must maintain a list of approved  
2.13 programs on the department's website.

2.14 Subd. 4. **Student eligibility.** A student enrolled at a four-year Minnesota public  
2.15 postsecondary institution with an approved campus-based program may not receive SNAP  
2.16 benefits under this section unless they are eligible for a federal Pell grant.

2.17 Subd. 5. **Report.** By December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the commissioner  
2.18 must provide a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative  
2.19 committees with jurisdiction over higher education and human services, and the legislative  
2.20 reference library, that contains the following information:

2.21 (1) the number of state-approved local educational programs that increase employability  
2.22 that are approved by the commissioner under subdivision 4, disaggregated by name and  
2.23 campus;

2.24 (2) the number of pending applications, disaggregated by name and campus; and

2.25 (3) the number of applications denied and the reason for the denial, disaggregated by  
2.26 name and campus.