

## SB 610 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Human Services

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 2/27

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Food for All Oregonians Program for residents who would qualify for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program except for their immigration status. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to administer program. Directs DHS to convene an advisory group to provide oversight and recommend metrics to ensure all Oregonians, regardless of the primary languages they speak, should be treated in a way that is welcoming and with respect, fairness, and dignity and in a courteous, fair and dignified manner by DHS personnel.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

##### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

##### BACKGROUND:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food benefits and education on food preparation and nutrition to low-income households. Benefits are issued on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card, also called an Oregon Trail Card. It can be used like a debit card to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores. Eligibility is based mostly on monthly income. That includes earned income from work, as well as unearned income such as social security, disability, child support and more. For most Oregonians, resources such as a house, car, or money in the bank do **not** count against eligibility. Oregon residents may be able to get SNAP if they are working, receiving unemployment, or attending school. To be eligible for this benefit program, applicants must be a resident of the state of Oregon and meet one of the following requirements: 1) have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$2,001, or 2) have a current bank balance (savings and checking combined) under \$3,001 who share their household with one of the following: a person or persons age 60 and over or a person with a disability (a child, your spouse, a parent, or themselves). There are a few groups of people that have additional considerations when applying for SNAP. Immigration status affects [SNAP eligibility](#). Currently six states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, and Washington) offer state food assistance programs to certain noncitizens who are ineligible for SNAP. These states use the existing SNAP infrastructure to deliver a SNAP-like benefit to immigrants, which is provided by and administered with state funds according to [a Food Research & Action Center report \(2021\)](#).

Senate Bill 610 will create a state-funded program that eliminates exclusions to SNAP based on immigrant status and create a culturally responsive application process.