

# Senate Bill 1585

Sponsored by Senator CAMPOS, Representative NERON; Senators DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GELSER BLOUIN, GORSEK, JAMA, MANNING JR, MEEK, PATTERSON, PROZANSKI, WOODS, Representatives ANDERSEN, CHAICHI, GAMBA, HARTMAN, NGUYEN H, NOSSE, PHAM H, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, RUIZ, TRAN, WALTERS (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act requires DHS to set up a work group and come up with a plan for a program that allows people who receive SNAP aid to be able to use the aid to buy hot foods and hot foods that are ready to eat. The Act says who must be on the work group. The Act requires DHS to take steps to carry out the program. (Flesch Readability Score: 87).

Requires the Department of Human Services to convene a work group to analyze options available under federal law for a program that allows recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to use the benefits for hot foods, including restaurant meals. Specifies the membership of the work group. Requires the department to implement the program on a statewide basis or as a pilot program.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

3 Whereas many of the hungriest Oregonians who rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
4 Program benefits face the most significant barriers to obtaining adequate nutrition from traditional  
5 groceries, including the lack of kitchen facilities or the means of preparing and cooking meals,  
6 special dietary needs or the need for specific foods due to prescription medications that they must  
7 take; now, therefore,

8 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

9 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Human Services shall convene a work group to ana-**  
10 **lyze options available under any applicable federal waivers or federal programs under 7 U.S.C.**  
11 **2026, or other options available with federal approval, to maximize the food choices for re-**  
12 **cipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, including by allowing bene-**  
13 **fits to be used to purchase hot foods and hot foods that are ready for immediate**  
14 **consumption. The work group shall consist of individuals representing the geographic and**  
15 **racial or ethnic diversity of this state who have:**

16 (a) Expertise in food insecurity.

17 (b) Personal experience receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

18 (c) Experience in the restaurant industry.

19 (d) Personal or professional experience in working with Oregonians who experience bar-  
20 riers to accessing hot food, such as seniors, individuals with disabilities or homeless indi-  
21 viduals.

22 (2) Based on the analysis of the work group, the department shall develop a plan to im-  
23 plement a program to allow recipients to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
24 benefits to purchase hot foods and hot foods that are ready for immediate consumption, in-  
25 cluding restaurant meals, and shall pursue federal approval from the United States Depart-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **ment of Agriculture, if approval is needed, or pursue options currently available under**  
 2 **federal law to implement the program.**

3 **(3) The plan must include, but is not limited to, recommendations for an evaluation of**  
 4 **the program to examine:**

5 **(a) Access to the program;**

6 **(b) The efficacy of the program in allowing participants to obtain restaurant meals; and**

7 **(c) The cost of the program.**

8 **(4) The Department of Human Services shall solicit public feedback on the plan developed**  
 9 **under subsection (2) of this section to ensure that the department receives feedback from**  
 10 **an equity perspective.**

11 **(5) The department may implement the program on a statewide basis or as a pilot pro-**  
 12 **gram.**

13 **(6) No later than January 31, 2025, the department shall report to the interim committees**  
 14 **of the Legislative Assembly related to human services on the implementation of the program**  
 15 **described in subsection (2) of this section.**

16 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2024 Act is amended to read:

17 **Sec. 1.** *[(1) The Department of Human Services shall convene a work group to analyze options*  
 18 *available under any applicable federal waivers or federal programs under 7 U.S.C. 2026, or other*  
 19 *options available with federal approval, to maximize the food choices for recipients of Supplemental*  
 20 *Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, including by allowing benefits to be used to purchase hot foods*  
 21 *and hot foods that are ready for immediate consumption. The work group shall consist of individuals*  
 22 *representing the geographic and racial or ethnic diversity of this state who have:]*

23 *[(a) Expertise in food insecurity.]*

24 *[(b) Personal experience receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.]*

25 *[(c) Experience in the restaurant industry.]*

26 *[(d) Personal or professional experience in working with Oregonians who experience barriers to*  
 27 *accessing hot food, such as seniors, individuals with disabilities or homeless individuals.]*

28 *[(2) Based on the analysis of the work group, the department shall develop a plan to implement a*  
 29 *program to allow recipients to use Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to purchase hot*  
 30 *foods and hot foods that are ready for immediate consumption, including restaurant meals, and shall*  
 31 *pursue federal approval from the United States Department of Agriculture, if approval is needed, or*  
 32 *pursue options currently available under federal law to implement the program.]*

33 *[(3) The plan must include, but is not limited to, recommendations for an evaluation of the program*  
 34 *to examine:]*

35 *[(a) Access to the program;]*

36 *[(b) The efficacy of the program in allowing participants to obtain restaurant meals; and]*

37 *[(c) The cost of the program.]*

38 *[(4) The Department of Human Services shall solicit public feedback on the plan developed under*  
 39 *subsection (2) of this section to ensure that the department receives feedback from an equity*  
 40 *perspective.]*

41 *[(5) The department may implement the program on a statewide basis or as a pilot program.]*

42 *[(6) No later than January 31, 2025, the department shall report to the interim committees of the*  
 43 *Legislative Assembly related to human services on the implementation of the program described in*  
 44 *subsection (2) of this section.]*

45 **To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Human Services shall allow**

1 recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits who lack access to kitchen  
2 facilities or a means of preparing meals to use the benefits to purchase hot foods and hot  
3 foods that are ready for immediate consumption, including restaurant meals.

4 **SECTION 3.** The amendments to section 1 of this 2024 Act by section 2 of this 2024 Act  
5 become operative upon receipt of any approval that is necessary to carry out section 1 of this  
6 2024 Act or upon the notification from the United States Secretary of Agriculture that no  
7 federal approval is necessary.

8 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Human Services shall notify the Legislative Counsel im-  
9 mediately upon receipt of:

10 (1) Any federal approval needed to carry out section 1 of this 2024 Act or the denial of  
11 approval; or

12 (2) Notification from the United States Secretary of Agriculture that no approval is  
13 necessary.

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