

**File Number:** H.F. 3612  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** March 19, 2018

**Authors:** Fenton and others

**Subject:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Waivers

**Analyst:** Danyell A. Punelli

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

This bill requires the commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioner of employment and economic development, to review unemployment data for all regions of the state in which a federal SNAP able-bodied adults without dependents time limit waiver is in effect and terminate waivers in regions that no longer meet the federal waiver requirements. The bill also requires the commissioner of human services to receive verification from the commissioner of employment and economic development that the labor market conditions in the region make the federal work requirements untenable before submitting a SNAP able-bodied adults without dependents time limit waiver request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.

SNAP is a federal program that increases the food purchasing power of low-income households. The Department of Human Services supervises the administration of the program in Minnesota and the counties administer the program at the local level. Minnesota must comply with federal laws and regulations related to the program.

Under federal law and regulations, there are specific work requirements for an eligible group of individuals referred to as able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD). This group consists of individuals who:

- are between the ages of 18 and 49;
- have no dependents; and
- are not disabled.

ABAWD are limited to receiving three months of SNAP benefits in three years if they do not meet certain work requirements.

Under federal law, states may request a waiver from the SNAP ABAWD work requirements in areas with an unemployment rate above ten percent or with a lack of sufficient jobs.

In federal fiscal year 2018, 29 counties (Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Pennington, Pine, Red Lake, Roseau, St. Louis, Todd, and Wadena) and 12 Indian reservations in Minnesota (Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Lower Sioux, Mille Lacs, Minnesota Chippewa, Prairie Island, Red Lake, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, Upper Sioux, and White Earth) are exempt from the ABAWD work and time limit requirements due to their high unemployment rates.