

Subject Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training

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Overview

This bill repeals the existing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) employment and training statutory provisions and proposes new SNAP employment and training provision that meets federal requirements.

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: (1) are between the ages of 18 and 49; (2) have no dependents; and (3) are not disabled.

ABAWDs are limited to receiving three months of SNAP benefits in three years if they do not meet certain work requirements. In order to meet the federal work requirement, an ABAWD must: (1) work at least 80 hours per month; (2) participate in qualifying education and training activities for at least 80 hours per month; (3) comply with a workfare program; or (4) participate in a SNAP employment and training program.

The work requirement does not apply to certain individuals, including individuals who: (1) are pregnant; (2) are exempt from work requirements; (3) are unable to work due to a physical or mental health illness, injury, or incapacity; (4) care for a child or incapacitated family member; or (5) reside in a county or Indian reservation where all participants are exempt from ABAWD requirements.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>SNAP employment and training.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.051, by adding subd. 20. Requires the commissioner to: (1) implement a SNAP employment and training program that meets federal participation requirements; and (2) operate a SNAP employment and training program in which SNAP recipients elect to participate. Requires nonexempt SNAP participant who do not meet federal SNAP work requirements to participate in an employment and training program in order to receive SNAP assistance beyond the time limit. Allows the commissioner to contract with third-party providers for SNAP employment and training services. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.</p>
2	<p>County and tribal agency duties.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.051, by adding subd. 21. Requires county or tribal agencies that administer SNAP to inform adult SNAP recipients about employment and training services and providers in the recipient's area. Allows county or tribal agencies that administer SNAP to subcontract with a public or private entity approved by the commissioner to provide SNAP employment and training services. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.</p>
3	<p>Duties of commissioner.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.051, by adding subd. 22. Lists duties the commissioner must perform, including: (1) disbursing money allocated and reimbursed for SNAP employment and training services to county, tribal, and contracted agencies; (2) coordinating with the commissioner of employment and economic development to deliver employment and training services statewide; and (3) working in partnership with counties, tribes, and other agencies to enhance the reach and services of a statewide SNAP employment and training program. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.</p>
4	<p>Participant duties.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.051, by adding subd. 23. Requires nonexempt SNAP recipients to meet federal SNAP work requirements to receive SNAP assistance beyond the time limit, unless the recipient resides in an area covered by a time-limit waiver. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.</p>
5	<p>Program funding.</p> <p>Amends § 256D.051, by adding subd. 24. Except for funds allocated for state program development and administrative purposes, requires the federal SNAP employment and training allocation to be disbursed to counties and tribes that administer SNAP based on a formula determined by the commissioner that includes but is not limited to the county or tribe's proportion of adult SNAP recipients as compared to the statewide total. Requires federal funds received as reimbursement for SNAP</p>

Section	Description
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	employment and training costs to be paid to the state agency, county, tribe, or contracted agency that incurred the costs being reimbursed. Allows the commissioner to reallocate unexpended money disbursed under this section to those county, tribal, or contracted agencies that demonstrate a need for additional funds. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.
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6	Repealer.
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	Repeals the existing SNAP employment and training program provisions. Provides an August 1, 2020, effective date.
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