SENATE BILL 404-FN

AN ACT establishing a supplemental nutrition assistance program.


COMMITTEE: Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a supplemental nutrition assistance program outreach program.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in bold italics. Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struck through.] Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
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Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Paragraph; Human Service; SNAP Outreach Program. Amend RSA 161:2 by inserting after paragraph XIII-a the following new paragraph:

XIII-b. SNAP Outreach Program. Develop a state outreach plan, known as the outreach plan, to promote access to eligible persons to benefits through SNAP. The department’s responsibility shall be limited to the development of the outreach plan and shall not include the implementation or administration of the outreach plan. The department shall give preference to private or federal moneys sufficient to cover the state’s costs associated with such implementation and administration. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent the department’s use of available general fund appropriations for the purposes of this paragraph if there are insufficient federal or private funds available. The outreach plan shall:

(a) Meet the criteria established by the Food and Nutrition Services Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for approval of state outreach plans. Upon approval of the outreach plan by USDA, the outreach plan shall be implemented within 3 months.

(b) Seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations to develop and implement the plan.

(c) Partner with one or more non-profit organizations for the development and implementation of the plan. In any contract made with non-profit organizations relating to the outreach plan, the contract shall specify that the nonprofit organization is responsible for seeking sufficient gifts, grants, or donations necessary for the development and implementation of the outreach plan, and may additionally specify that any costs to the state associated with the award and management of the contract or the implementation or administration of the outreach plan shall be paid out of any private or federal moneys raised for the development and implementation of the outreach plan.

(d) Submit the final state outreach plan to the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA for approval on or before the USDA deadline for fiscal year 2023, as well as annually or as required by USDA thereafter, and shall request any federal matching funds that may be available upon approval of the state outreach plan.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
AN ACT establishing a supplemental nutrition assistance program.

FISCAL IMPACT:  [ X ] State  [ ] County  [ ] Local  [ ] None

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METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a state outreach plan to promote access for eligible persons to benefits through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill conditions implementation of the outreach plan upon the receipt of private or federal funds sufficient to cover the entire state cost of implementation and administration. The Department is unable to estimate the amount of funds that may be received, or any resulting impact on utilization of SNAP benefits.

The Department notes that in its normal course of business, it already plans to apply for a SNAP outreach plan as part of its August 2022 submission to the federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Although the Development of this plan will require staffing and other agency resources, it is expected to be accomplished within the Department's existing budget. This bill indicates that the resulting plan would not be implemented unless its cost were fully funded by private or federal sources.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:
Department of Health and Human Services