

Senate File 2443

H-8396

1 Amend Senate File 2443, as passed by the Senate, as follows:

2 1. Page 12, after line 7 by inserting:

3 <DIVISION ____
4 EBT

5 Sec. ____ . FINDINGS. The general assembly finds all of the
6 following:

7 1. The Iowa general assembly, in conjunction with state
8 agencies, has a duty to ensure Iowa children have access to
9 food and essential nutrition regardless of income level.

10 2. Summer can be a time of increased hunger for children who
11 no longer have access to regular school lunches.

12 3. Iowa is currently experiencing a food insecurity crisis
13 as food banks and other charitable organizations continue to
14 report record high demand from Iowans in need.

15 4. There are an estimated two hundred forty thousand
16 children in Iowa who would be eligible to receive benefits
17 under the summer electronic benefits transfer (EBT) for
18 children program, as established as a permanent program under
19 the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, 42 U.S.C.
20 §1762.

21 5. When Iowans are struggling financially, they are more
22 likely to buy less expensive foods, which are high in calories
23 and low in nutritional value.

24 6. Summer congregate and noncongregate meals are not always
25 easily accessible to families in need, particularly in rural
26 Iowa.

27 7. The summer EBT for children program offered by the
28 federal government would provide an estimated twenty-nine
29 million dollars to address the food insecurity crisis, which
30 not only feeds children but stimulates local economic activity.

31 8. Iowa ended fiscal year 2022-2023 with a general fund
32 balance of one billion eight hundred thirty-one million
33 dollars. Iowa can afford to feed hungry children and cover the
34 costs of administering the summer EBT for children program.

35 Sec. ____ . PARTICIPATION IN SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS

1 TRANSFER (EBT) FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM — APPROPRIATION.

2 1. The department of health and human services, in
3 coordination with the department of education, shall do all of
4 the following:

5 a. Immediately upon the effective date of this Act, submit a
6 letter of intent to the United States secretary of agriculture
7 to apply for and participate in the summer EBT for children
8 program offered by the United States department of agriculture
9 food and nutrition service during summer 2024.

10 b. Coordinate with the United States department of
11 agriculture food and nutrition service to develop a successful
12 management and administration plan for the summer EBT for
13 children program, and submit the plan to the United States
14 secretary of agriculture by February 15, 2024.

15 2. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state
16 to the department of health and human services for the fiscal
17 year beginning July 1, 2023, a sufficient amount to cover the
18 costs of administering the summer EBT for children program
19 during summer 2024. Moneys appropriated under this section
20 that remain unexpended or unencumbered at the close of the
21 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for
22 expenditure in the succeeding fiscal year.

23 Sec. _____. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being
24 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

25 Sec. _____. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This division of this
26 Act applies retroactively to July 1, 2023.>

27 2. By renumbering as necessary.

ISENHART of Dubuque