

**House File 288 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 288

BY HEATON and GRASSLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the department of human services to request  
2 authorization from the United States department of  
3 agriculture to allow the state to restrict the use of food  
4 assistance benefits for food items with a low nutritional  
5 value and including effective date provisions.  
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM — AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT  
2 USE OF BENEFITS. The department of human services shall submit  
3 a request to the United States department of agriculture for  
4 authorization for a waiver, pilot project, or other approach  
5 for restricting the use of food assistance benefits, as  
6 administered by the state under the federal supplemental  
7 nutrition assistance program, for food items with a low  
8 nutritional value. The request shall be submitted within 60  
9 days of the effective date of this Act. The department shall  
10 regularly report on the status of the request to the members  
11 of the joint appropriations subcommittee on health and human  
12 services and the legislative services agency.

13 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of  
14 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill requires the department of human services to  
17 request authorization from the United States department of  
18 agriculture to allow the state to restrict the use of food  
19 assistance benefits for food items with a low nutritional  
20 value. The state administers the food assistance benefits,  
21 formerly known as food stamps, under the federal supplemental  
22 nutritional assistance program or SNAP.

23 The department is directed to submit the request within  
24 60 days of the bill's effective date and to report regularly  
25 on the status of the request to the members of the joint  
26 appropriations subcommittee on health and human services and  
27 the legislative services agency.

28 The bill takes effect upon enactment.