

# House Study Bill 508 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON MEYER)

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the performance of an asset test to
- 2 determine eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance
- 3 program benefits.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 239.1 Definitions.

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
3 requires:

4 1. "*Applicant*" means an individual who is applying for SNAP  
5 benefits in the state.

6 2. "*Asset*" or "*asset test*" means all assets of the members  
7 of the applicant's household, including all of the following:

8 a. All bank accounts, excluding retirement accounts of  
9 members of the household.

10 b. All cash, excluding the first two thousand dollars of  
11 members of the household.

12 c. All lottery and gambling income of the household whether  
13 received as a lump sum or installment payments.

14 d. All real estate, excluding the primary household  
15 residence and surrounding lot.

16 e. All other personal property excluding personal  
17 belongings, household goods, and one vehicle.

18 3. "*Department*" means the department of human services.

19 4. "*Public assistance*" means SNAP (the supplemental  
20 nutrition assistance program), the Medicaid program, FIP (the  
21 family investment program), and CHIP (the children's health  
22 insurance program).

23 5. "*Real-time system*" means real-time electronic access  
24 to a system that allows verification of all applicable public  
25 assistance program eligibility information based on the  
26 most recent information available to the department through  
27 nonmodeled earned and unearned income, such as commercially  
28 available wage data.

29 6. "*Supplemental nutrition assistance program*" or "*SNAP*"  
30 means the supplemental nutrition assistance program as defined  
31 in 7 U.S.C. §2012.

32 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 239.2 Asset test for supplemental  
33 nutrition assistance program — rules — report.

34 1. For the purposes of determining eligibility for receipt  
35 of SNAP benefits, the department shall conduct an asset test

1 on all members of the applicant's household. The allowable  
2 financial resources to be included in or excluded from a  
3 determination of eligibility for SNAP shall be those specified  
4 in 7 U.S.C. §2014(g)(1).

5 2. Prior to determining eligibility for SNAP benefits,  
6 the department shall access, at a minimum, for every member  
7 of the applicant's household, the following information from  
8 the following federal, state, and miscellaneous sources, or  
9 successor sources:

10 a. Federal sources and information:

11 (1) Earned and unearned income information maintained by  
12 the internal revenue service.

13 (2) The following sources and information maintained by the  
14 United States social security administration:

15 (a) Earned income information.

16 (b) Death register information.

17 (c) Prisoner or incarceration status information.

18 (d) Supplemental security income information maintained in  
19 the state data exchange database.

20 (e) Beneficiary records and earnings information maintained  
21 in the beneficiary and earnings data exchange database.

22 (f) Earnings and pension information maintained in the  
23 beneficiary earnings exchange record system database.

24 (3) The following sources and information maintained by the  
25 United States department of health and human services:

26 (a) Income and employment information maintained in the  
27 national directory of new hires database by the office of child  
28 support enforcement of the administration for children and  
29 families.

30 (b) Other federal data sources maintained by the office of  
31 child support enforcement of the administration for children  
32 and families.

33 b. State sources and information:

34 (1) The department's sources and information including but  
35 not limited to all of the following:

1 (a) Income and employment information maintained by the  
2 child support recovery unit.

3 (b) Child care assistance information maintained by the  
4 division of child and family services.

5 (c) Enrollment status in other public assistance programs.

6 (2) The department of workforce development sources and  
7 information including all of the following:

8 (a) Employment information.

9 (b) Employer weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports of  
10 income and unemployment insurance payments.

11 (3) The Iowa public employees' retirement system for  
12 earnings and pension information.

13 c. Miscellaneous sources:

14 (1) Any existing real-time system database of persons  
15 currently receiving benefits in other states, such as the  
16 national accuracy clearinghouse.

17 (2) Any databases maintained by the Iowa lottery  
18 commission.

19 (3) Any existing real-time system that includes employment  
20 and income information maintained by a consumer reporting  
21 agency, as defined by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act,  
22 15 U.S.C. §1681a, for the purpose of obtaining real-time  
23 employment and income information.

24 3. Prior to determining eligibility for SNAP benefits, the  
25 department shall access information for every member of the  
26 applicant's household from the following public records:

27 a. A nationwide public records data source of physical asset  
28 ownership. The data source may include but is not limited to  
29 real property, automobiles, watercraft, aircraft, and luxury  
30 vehicles, or any other vehicle owned by the applicant.

31 b. National and state financial institutions in order  
32 to locate undisclosed depository accounts or verify account  
33 balances of disclosed accounts.

34 4. The department shall enter into a memorandum of  
35 understanding with any department, division, bureau, section,

1 unit, or any other subunit of a department to obtain the  
2 information specified in this section.

3 5. The provisions of this section shall not apply if every  
4 member of the applicant's household receives supplemental  
5 security income.

6 6. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
7 to administer this chapter.

8 7. The department shall submit a report to the governor  
9 and the general assembly by January 15, 2024, and by January  
10 15 annually thereafter through January 15, 2029, detailing the  
11 impact of the asset test measures taken under this chapter.

12 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION.

13 1. The department of human services shall request federal  
14 approval including for any state plan amendment or waiver  
15 necessary to administer this Act.

16 2. The provisions of this Act requiring federal approval  
17 shall be implemented upon receipt of such federal approval.

18 3. The provisions of this Act not requiring federal approval  
19 shall be implemented no later than July 1, 2023.

20 4. The department may contract with multiple third-party  
21 vendors to administer this Act.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to the performance of an asset test to  
26 determine eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance  
27 program (SNAP) benefits.

28 The bill provides definitions used in the bill.

29 The bill requires the department of human services (DHS) to  
30 conduct an asset test on all members of the household of an  
31 applicant for SNAP benefits. The bill specifies the minimum  
32 information, federal, state, and other data sources, and public  
33 records that DHS must access prior to determining eligibility  
34 for an applicant's SNAP benefits. The bill requires DHS to  
35 enter into a memorandum of understanding with any department or

1 subunit of a department to obtain the information specified.  
2 The bill provisions do not apply if every member of the  
3 applicant's household receives supplemental security income.  
4 The bill requires DHS to adopt administrative rules to  
5 implement the bill, requires DHS to report annually on the  
6 impact of the asset test measures of the bill, and includes  
7 implementation provisions.