

Senate File 2069 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2069

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to modernization of nutrition programs in the
2 state.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. MODERNIZATION OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS —
2 INITIATIVES — REPORT.

3 1. For the purposes of this section:

4 a. "Department" means the department of health and human
5 services.

6 b. "SNAP" means the same as defined in section 239.1.

7 c. "WIC" means the special supplemental nutrition program
8 for women, infants, and children as provided in 42 U.S.C. §1786
9 et seq.

10 2. The department shall do all of the following to modernize
11 nutrition programs in the state:

12 a. Create an integrated eligibility determination
13 application to be used for both WIC and SNAP.

14 b. Implement all of the following strategies as pilot
15 initiatives:

16 (1) Incorporate all available federal waivers to modernize
17 WIC by building or enhancing remote service, including through
18 a waiver permitting the use of telephone and video calls,
19 rather than requiring physical presence to complete WIC
20 certification and recertification.

21 (2) Create opportunities and modify the department's
22 internet site for WIC to simplify the application process and
23 WIC benefit distribution by doing all of the following:

24 (a) Implement streamlined eligibility for WIC applicants
25 who demonstrate proof of enrollment in SNAP or Medicaid by
26 using state-level referrals and data and information sharing
27 and matching.

28 (b) Enable automatic online loading of benefits to WIC
29 nutrition cards.

30 (c) Offer online shopping with WIC nutrition cards.

31 (d) Explore other opportunities to improve access to WIC
32 benefits and to remove administrative burdens as allowed by
33 federal law.

34 3. The department shall request federal approval of
35 any waiver or state plan as necessary to implement the

1 modernization initiatives described in subsection 2 and shall
2 implement the initiatives upon receipt of federal approval.

3 4. Within thirty days following completion of the first six
4 months of implementation of this section, the department shall
5 submit a report to the general assembly regarding the outcomes
6 resulting from this section, an evaluation of the feasibility
7 of expanding the modernization initiatives statewide, and the
8 projected impact of statewide expansion.

9

EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill directs the department of health and human
13 services (HHS) to modernize the special supplemental nutrition
14 program for women, infants, and children (WIC) and the
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) in the state.

16 The bill directs HHS to create an integrated eligibility
17 determination application to be used for both WIC and SNAP.
18 HHS shall also implement specified strategies as pilot
19 initiatives including: incorporating all available federal
20 waivers to modernize WIC by building or enhancing remote
21 service, including through a waiver permitting the use of
22 telephone and video calls, rather than requiring physical
23 presence to complete WIC certification and recertification;
24 and creating opportunities and modifying the department's
25 internet site for WIC to simplify the application process and
26 WIC benefit distribution by streamlining eligibility for WIC
27 applicants who demonstrate proof of enrollment in SNAP or
28 Medicaid, enabling automatic online loading of benefits to WIC
29 nutrition cards, offering online shopping with WIC nutrition
30 cards, and exploring other opportunities to improve access to
31 WIC benefits and to remove administrative burdens as allowed
32 by federal law.

33 The bill requires HHS to request federal approval of any
34 waiver or state plan as necessary to implement the bill and to
35 implement the bill upon receipt of federal approval.

S.F. 2069

1 HHS shall submit a report to the general assembly within
2 30 days following completion of the first six months of
3 implementation of the bill that includes the outcomes resulting
4 from the bill, an evaluation of the feasibility of expanding
5 the provisions of the bill statewide, and the projected impact
6 of statewide expansion.