

Senate File 218 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 218
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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:

unofficial

1 Section 1. MODERNIZATION OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS — INITIATIVES
2 — 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 for
8 women, infants, and children as provided in 42 U.S.C. §1786 et
9 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 application
13 to be used for both WIC and SNAP.

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

19 c. Implement a pilot initiative that creates opportunities
20 and modifies the department's internet site for WIC to simplify
21 the application process and WIC benefit distribution by doing all
22 of the following:

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

27 (2) Enable automatic online loading of benefits to WIC
28 nutrition cards.

29 (3) Offer online shopping with WIC nutrition cards.

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

33 3. The department shall request federal approval of any
34 waiver or state plan as necessary to implement the modernization
35 initiatives described in subsection 2 and shall implement the

1 initiatives upon receipt of federal approval.

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

8 EXPLANATION

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

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

15 The bill directs HHS to create an integrated eligibility
16 determination application to be used for both WIC and SNAP. HHS
17 shall incorporate all available federal waivers to modernize WIC
18 by building or enhancing remote service. HHS shall implement
19 a pilot initiative that creates opportunities and modifies
20 HHS's internet site for WIC to simplify the application process
21 and WIC benefit distribution by streamlining eligibility for
22 WIC applicants who demonstrate proof of enrollment in SNAP or
23 Medicaid, enabling automatic online loading of benefits to WIC
24 nutrition cards, offering online shopping with WIC nutrition
25 cards, and exploring other opportunities to improve access to
26 WIC benefits and to remove administrative burdens as allowed by
27 federal law.

28 The bill requires HHS to request federal approval of any
29 waiver or state plan as necessary to implement the bill and to
30 implement the bill upon receipt of federal approval.

31 HHS shall submit a report to the general assembly within 30
32 days following the first six months of the implementation of
33 the bill that includes the outcomes resulting from the bill, an
34 evaluation of the feasibility of expanding the provisions of the
35 bill statewide, and the projected impact of statewide expansion.