

**Senate File 326 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 326  
BY TRONE GARRIOTT

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the federal summer electronic benefits  
2 transfer for children program (SUN bucks), making an  
3 appropriation, and including effective date and retroactive  
4 applicability provisions.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds all of the  
2 following:

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

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

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

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

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

20 6. Summer congregate and noncongregate meals are not always  
21 easily accessible to families in need, particularly in rural  
22 Iowa.

23 7. The SUN bucks program offered by the federal government  
24 would provide an estimated twenty-nine million dollars to address  
25 the food insecurity crisis, which not only feeds children but  
26 stimulates local economic activity.

27 8. Iowa ended fiscal year 2023-2024 with a general fund  
28 balance of two billion fifty-three million dollars. Iowa  
29 can afford to feed hungry children and cover the costs of  
30 administering the SUN bucks program.

31 Sec. 2. PARTICIPATION IN SUN BUCKS PROGRAM —  
32 APPROPRIATION.

33 1. The department of health and human services, in  
34 coordination with the department of education, shall do all of  
35 the following:

1 a. Immediately upon the effective date of this Act, submit a  
2 letter of intent to the United States secretary of agriculture  
3 to apply for and participate in the SUN bucks program offered by  
4 the United States department of agriculture food and nutrition  
5 service to provide eligible families with EBT benefit cards to  
6 purchase food from participating stores during summer 2025.

7 b. Coordinate with the United States department of  
8 agriculture food and nutrition service to develop a successful  
9 management and administration plan for the SUN bucks program, and  
10 submit the plan to the United States secretary of agriculture by  
11 April 1, 2025.

12 2. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state  
13 to the department of health and human services for the fiscal  
14 year beginning July 1, 2024, a sufficient amount to cover the  
15 costs of administering the SUN bucks program during summer 2025.  
16 Moneys appropriated under this section that remain unexpended or  
17 unencumbered at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert but  
18 shall remain available for expenditure in the succeeding fiscal  
19 year.

20 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
21 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

22 Sec. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. This Act applies  
23 retroactively to July 1, 2024.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to the summer electronic benefits transfer  
28 (EBT) for children program, also known as the SUN bucks  
29 program, made permanent by federal law under the Consolidated  
30 Appropriations Act, 2023, administered by the United States  
31 department of agriculture (USDA) food and nutrition service.

32 The bill includes findings relating to food insecurity in the  
33 state including that it is estimated that approximately 240,000  
34 children would be eligible to receive benefits under the SUN  
35 bucks program; that when Iowans are struggling financially, they

1 are more likely to buy less expensive foods, high in calories  
2 and low in nutritional value; and that the SUN bucks program  
3 would provide an estimated \$29 million to address the food  
4 insecurity crisis which not only feeds children but stimulates  
5 local economic activity.

6 Upon the effective date of the bill, the department of health  
7 and human services (HHS), in coordination with the department of  
8 education, shall immediately submit a letter of intent to apply  
9 for and participate in the SUN bucks program during summer 2025,  
10 to coordinate with the USDA to develop a successful management  
11 and administration plan for the SUN bucks program, and to submit  
12 the plan to the USDA by April 1, 2025.

13 The bill appropriates from the general fund of the state to  
14 HHS for fiscal year 2024-2025 a sufficient amount to cover the  
15 costs of administering the SUN bucks program during summer 2025.

16 The bill takes effect upon enactment and is retroactively  
17 applicable to July 1, 2024.