

Senate File 556 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 556
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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to eligibility requirements for pregnant women,
2 postpartum women, and infants under the special supplemental
3 nutrition program for women, infants, and children.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN,
2 INFANTS, AND CHILDREN ELIGIBILITY — PREGNANCY, POSTPARTUM, AND
3 INFANTS.

4 1. On or before August 1, 2025, the department of health
5 and human services shall submit a request to the food and
6 nutrition service of the United States department of agriculture
7 for approval of a waiver for purposes of the state administration
8 of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants,
9 and children, to provide the following:

10 a. Continuous eligibility during a woman's pregnancy for
11 a pregnant woman whose family income is at or below three
12 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level for the
13 household size.

14 b. Twelve months of continuous postpartum eligibility for
15 a postpartum woman whose family income is at or below three
16 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level for the
17 household size.

18 c. Twelve months of continuous eligibility from the date of
19 an infant's birth for an infant whose family income is at or
20 below three hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
21 level for the household size.

22 2. The department of health and human services shall
23 implement the waiver no fewer than thirty calendar days from the
24 date of receipt of federal approval.

25 3. If the food and nutrition service of the United States
26 department of agriculture fails to approve the waiver, the
27 department of health and human services shall submit a report to
28 the general assembly on or before December 31, 2025, containing
29 the cost of the department providing the following:

30 a. Continuous eligibility during a woman's pregnancy under
31 the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants,
32 and children for a pregnant woman whose family income is at or
33 below three hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
34 level for the household size.

35 b. Twelve months of continuous postpartum eligibility under

1 the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants,
2 and children for a postpartum woman whose family income is at or
3 below three hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
4 level for the household size.

5 c. Twelve months of continuous eligibility from the date
6 of an infant's birth under the special supplemental nutrition
7 program for women, infants, and children for an infant whose
8 family income is at or below three hundred seventy-five percent
9 of the federal poverty level for the household size.

10 Sec. 2. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN,
11 INFANTS, AND CHILDREN — STATE-FUNDED ELIGIBILITY. The
12 department of health and human services shall expand eligibility
13 under the special supplemental nutrition program for women by
14 providing the following:

15 1. Continuous eligibility during a woman's pregnancy for
16 a pregnant woman whose family income is at or below three
17 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level for the
18 household size.

19 2. Twelve months of continuous postpartum eligibility for
20 a postpartum woman whose family income is at or below three
21 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty level for the
22 household size.

23 3. Twelve months of continuous eligibility from the date of
24 an infant's birth for an infant whose family income is at or
25 below three hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty
26 level for the household size.

27 Sec. 3. CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE. If the food and nutrition
28 service of the United States department of agriculture fails to
29 approve the waiver to expand eligibility for pregnant women,
30 postpartum women, and infants under the special supplemental
31 nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and the
32 general assembly appropriates moneys to the department of health
33 and human services for the purpose of expanding eligibility for
34 pregnant women, postpartum women, and infants under the special
35 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children,

1 the following takes effect on July 1, 2026:

2 The section of this Act requiring the department of
3 health and human services to provide expanded eligibility for
4 pregnant women, postpartum women, and infants under the special
5 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill relates to eligibility requirements for pregnant
10 women, postpartum women, and infants under the special
11 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children
12 (WIC).

13 The bill requires the department of health and human services
14 (HHS) to submit a request to the food and nutrition service
15 of the United States department of agriculture (USDA) for
16 approval of a waiver to provide, for purposes of WIC, continuous
17 eligibility during a woman's pregnancy for a pregnant woman whose
18 family income does not exceed 375 percent of the federal poverty
19 level (FPL), 12 months of continuous postpartum eligibility for a
20 postpartum woman whose family income does not exceed 375 percent
21 of the FPL, and 12 months from the date of an infant's birth of
22 continuous eligibility for an infant whose family income does not
23 exceed 375 percent of the FPL.

24 The bill requires HHS to implement the waiver not fewer than
25 30 calendar days from the receipt of approval from the USDA food
26 and nutrition service.

27 If the USDA food and nutrition service does not approve the
28 waiver, HHS shall submit a report to the general assembly on or
29 before December 31, 2025, containing the cost of HHS providing
30 the expanded eligibility under WIC without the assistance of
31 additional federal moneys.

32 On July 1, 2026, if the USDA fails to approve the waiver
33 to expand eligibility for pregnant women, postpartum women,
34 and infants under WIC, and the general assembly appropriates
35 moneys for the purpose of expanding eligibility for pregnant

1 women, postpartum women, and infants under WIC, HHS shall provide
2 continuous eligibility during a woman's pregnancy for a pregnant
3 woman whose family income that does not exceed 375 percent of
4 the FPL, 12 months of continuous postpartum eligibility for a
5 postpartum woman whose family income does not exceed 375 percent
6 of the FPL, and 12 months from the date of an infant's birth of
7 continuous eligibility for an infant whose family income does not
8 exceed 375 percent of the FPL.

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