
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 328 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY STREET, SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, COSTA, LEACH,
A. WILLIAMS, KEARNEY, MUTH AND DINNIMAN, MAY 25, 2020

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 25, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Human Services to submit a request to
2 the United States Department of Agriculture to participate in
3 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Online
4 Purchasing Pilot.

5 WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
6 provides critical nutritional support for individuals and
7 families with little or no income, including older adults and
8 people with disabilities living on a fixed income, low-wage
9 working families and other low-income individuals and
10 households; and

11 WHEREAS, The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79, 128
12 Stat. 921), commonly referred to as the 2014 United States Farm
13 Bill, directs the United States Secretary of Agriculture to
14 authorize retail food stores to accept SNAP benefits through
15 online transactions, based on the results of pilot projects
16 conducted with online food retailers; and

17 WHEREAS, The Food and Nutrition Service of the United States
18 Department of Agriculture created the SNAP Online Purchasing
19 Pilot to test the feasibility of using SNAP and electronic

1 benefit transfer benefits for online food purchases and to
2 determine whether authorizing online food purchases with SNAP
3 benefits would be in the best interest of the program; and

4 WHEREAS, States currently participating in the online pilot
5 project include Alabama, New York, Oregon and Washington; and

6 WHEREAS, Based on subsequent agreements, states anticipated
7 to join the online pilot project include Iowa, Maryland,
8 Nebraska and New Jersey; and

9 WHEREAS, In April 2019, New York launched a two-year pilot,
10 which allows SNAP recipients in that state to select and pay for
11 their groceries online for the first time; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture will use
13 the New York State pilot program to govern future efforts to
14 expand the use of SNAP benefits for online food purchases
15 nationwide; and

16 WHEREAS, In January 2020, the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot
17 was launched in the State of Washington; and

18 WHEREAS, The rate at which United States consumers purchase
19 groceries online has increased rapidly in recent years, with
20 data indicating as many as 93 million online grocery purchasers
21 in 2019; and

22 WHEREAS, SNAP recipients in this Commonwealth should have the
23 same opportunity to shop for food online as millions of other
24 Americans; and

25 WHEREAS, The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot would enable SNAP
26 recipients in this Commonwealth with limited transportation or
27 grocery options the opportunity to access healthy foods; and

28 WHEREAS, In order for Pennsylvania to participate in the SNAP
29 Online Purchasing Pilot, the Department of Human Services is
30 required to submit a formal request to volunteer in the online

1 pilot program; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Department of Human
3 Services to submit a request to the United States Department of
4 Agriculture to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition
5 Assistance Program Online Purchasing Pilot; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the Governor and the Secretary of Human Services.