

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NO.** House Bill 1659

**PRINTER NO.** 3461

**AMOUNT**

See Fiscal Impact

**FUND**

General Fund

**DATE INTRODUCED**

July 11, 2017

**PRIME SPONSOR**

Representative Tobash

**DESCRIPTION**

House Bill 1659 amends the Human Services Code as it relates to work requirement waivers in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The legislation prohibits the Department of Human Services (DHS) from applying for, accepting or renewing work requirement waivers without prior approval from the General Assembly.

As a condition of participation and continued eligibility for SNAP, an adult recipient must submit proof of compliance with at least one of the following:

- The recipient has been employed for an average of at least 20 hours per week;
- The recipient engaged in at least 24 hours of community service per month;
- The recipient participates in a work program for at least 20 hours per week;
- or
- The recipient is enrolled as a full-time student in an institution of higher education.

The work requirements do not apply to individuals who are exempt under Section (6) (O)(3) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. § 2015 (O)(3)).

DHS must provide notice to adult recipients on the date of annual renewal that eligibility will be terminated if the recipient fails to meet the requirements and locations where assistance to meet the requirements is available. DHS must also provide a form notice to county assistance offices that eligibility for SNAP shall be terminated three months after the notice if the recipient fails to comply with the work, community service or education requirements.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

According to Department of Human Services (DHS), there are approximately 83,000 adult Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients that are currently covered by a work requirement waiver. Upon enactment of this act, DHS would be required to seek legislative approval for a waiver for work requirements. If the Legislature does not approve any work requirement waivers, then the recipients would be required to meet one of the requirements to continue to receive SNAP benefits.

## **SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE**

If the required SNAP recipient chooses to complete training instead of working, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program average training program cost per recipient is \$2,500, and these costs are eligible for 50% federal matching funds.

If the recipient finds employment with a wage over the SNAP income threshold or the recipient chooses to be non-compliant with the work requirements then there is an estimated federal savings of \$125 per month for each adult recipient that no longer receives SNAP benefits.