



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bob Bennett

H.B. 381

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ramos and Howse, Antonio, K. Smith, Boyd, Slesnick, Lepore-Hagan, M. O'Brien, Boyce, Reece, Phillips, Sheehy

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the Director of Job and Family Services to request a federal waiver of a time limit for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applicable to certain individuals who fail to satisfy work requirements.
 - Requires the Director to request the waiver for (1) each area of the state that has an unemployment rate of over 10% or does not have a sufficient number of jobs offering employment and (2) the entire state when the entire state qualifies.
 - Requires the Director to request the waiver each time one or more areas of the state or the entire state qualifies and whenever the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture informs the Director that the Secretary would grant the waiver.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Waiver of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program time limits

The bill addresses the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP's) time limits. SNAP was created by Congress to help low-income households obtain a more nutritious diet through normal channels of trade by increasing food purchasing power for all eligible households who apply for participation.¹ Previously, SNAP was called the Food Stamp Program.

¹ 7 U.S.C. 2011.

Federal law governing SNAP establishes time limits for certain individuals who fail to meet work requirements.² Generally, an individual subject to the work requirements may not participate in SNAP for more than three months in a 36-month period unless the individual (1) works 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly, (2) participates in and complies with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week, or (3) participates in and complies with the requirements of a workfare program or a comparable program established by a state or political subdivision. The work requirements do not apply to an individual who (1) is under 18 or over 50 years of age, (2) is medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment, (3) is a parent or other member of a household with responsibility for a dependent child, (4) is pregnant, or (5) qualifies for certain other exemptions.

A state is authorized by federal law to request that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture waive the time limit for individuals who reside in an area of the state that has an unemployment rate of over 10% or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.³ The bill requires the Director of Job and Family Services to request such a waiver for all areas of the state that qualify and for the entire state when the entire state qualifies, including when the U.S. Department of Labor determines that the state qualifies for extended unemployment benefits. The Director is required to request the waiver each time one or more areas of the state or the entire state qualifies as determined by any of the types of data and other evidence that federal statutes, regulations, and guidances authorize states to use for this purpose. The Director also is required to request the waiver whenever the Secretary informs the Director that the Secretary would grant the waiver.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	10-27-15

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² 7 U.S.C. 2015(o).

³ 7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4).

