

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 1944

03/04/2019 Authored by Kresha The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; modifying provisions governing the supplemental
1.3 nutrition assistance program; setting work requirement for able-bodied adults
1.4 without dependents at the federal maximum; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018,
1.5 section 256D.0515.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 256D.0515, is amended to read:

1.8 256D.0515 INCOME AND ASSET LIMITATIONS FOR FOOD STAMP
1.9 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HOUSEHOLDS.

1.10 (a) All food-stamp supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) households must
1.11 be determined eligible for the benefit discussed under section 256.029. Food-stamp
1.12 households When applying for benefits, an applicant SNAP household must:

1.13 (1) demonstrate that their the applicant's gross income is equal to or less than 165 percent
1.14 of the federal poverty guidelines for the same family size;

1.15 (2) attest in writing that the applicant meets the federal financial resource requirements
1.16 under United States Code, title 7, section 2014(g), except that the household's financial
1.17 resources may not exceed \$20,000, and two licensed vehicles per household must be excluded
1.18 from financial resource limits;

1.19 (3) attest to all of the applicant's liquid and nonliquid assets and their value, and all of
1.20 the applicant's debt obligations and amounts. County agencies, in consultation with the
1.21 Department of Human Services, shall refer applicants that have disclosed debt obligations
1.22 and amounts to organizations of resources to help applicants manage financial obligations;

2.1 (4) attest whether the applicant's assets including land, equipment, and supplies are
 2.2 related to a farming operation; and

2.3 (5) attest whether the applicant has deferred or voluntarily delayed any form of payment
 2.4 in the last six months, including payments from Social Security or distributions from
 2.5 retirement accounts. An applicant who has deferred or voluntarily delayed payments from
 2.6 any source in the six months preceding the applicant's application is not eligible for SNAP
 2.7 benefits.

2.8 (b) Immediately upon receipt of an application, county agencies shall verify the written
 2.9 asset attestation of each applicant that received SNAP benefits for a total of 120 days in the
 2.10 previous calendar year. For an applicant that received SNAP benefits for fewer than 120
 2.11 days in the previous calendar year, each month county agencies shall verify a random sample
 2.12 of the written asset attestations of applicants continuing to receive SNAP benefits 120 days
 2.13 after the date of application, according to the following schedule:

2.14 (1) one percent of applicants that have disclosed less than \$5,000 in assets;

2.15 (2) two percent of applicants that have disclosed more than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000
 2.16 in assets;

2.17 (3) five percent of applicants that have disclosed more than \$10,000 but less than \$15,000
 2.18 in assets; and

2.19 (4) ten percent of applicants that have disclosed more than \$15,000 but no more than
 2.20 \$20,000 in assets.

2.21 Applicants that continue to receive SNAP benefits after the 120-day verification must be
 2.22 verified according to the schedule for income verification. Applicants whose verified assets
 2.23 are related to agricultural business activities shall not be verified more than once every 36
 2.24 months.

2.25 (c) The work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents shall be set at the
 2.26 maximum allowed under federal law.

2.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective upon federal approval, or January 1,
 2.28 2020, whichever is later. The commissioner of human services shall notify the revisor of
 2.29 statutes when the necessary federal approval has been obtained.

2.30 Sec. 2. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

2.31 To carry out the requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.0515, the
 2.32 commissioner of human services shall:

3.1 (1) seek all federal authority, including submitting all waiver applications, necessary to
3.2 carry out the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.0515;

3.3 (2) incorporate the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.0515, into existing
3.4 application forms and review processes;

3.5 (3) develop technical guidance for county agencies to implement, verify, and enforce
3.6 the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.0515; and

3.7 (4) develop or identify organizations, resources, or other information for counties to
3.8 refer applicants for assistance with financial or debt management.

3.9 Sec. 3. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

3.10 In Minnesota Statutes, the revisor of statutes shall change the terms "food support,"
3.11 "food stamp," and "food stamps" to "supplemental nutrition assistance program" or "SNAP"
3.12 when appropriate. The revisor of statutes shall make any necessary technical and grammatical
3.13 changes to preserve the meaning of the text.