



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3277

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Sen. Elgie R. Sims, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

305 ILCS 5/12-4.13f new

Amends the Administration Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the Department of Human Services to, subject to available funding, establish a Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger (FRESH) Program to provide FRESH benefits to households subject to termination of the household's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, or a reduction in the household's monthly SNAP benefit allotment, if the termination or reduction in SNAP benefits occurred as a result of one or more members of the household failing to meet federal SNAP work requirements. Provides that, for eligible households whose SNAP benefits were reduced or terminated, FRESH benefits shall be provided as a one-time lump sum payment distributed via an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. Requires the Department to make FRESH program applications available online and at local Family and Community Resource Centers immediately upon the first of the month following the effective date of the amendatory Act. Provides that an application for FRESH benefits shall not be deemed an application for any other public aid provided under the Code. Requires the Department to provide within a specified time frame FRESH benefits to households' that experience a reduction or termination of SNAP benefits prior to or after the first month following the effective date of the amendatory Act, if certain application submission deadlines are met. Requires the Department to publish monthly data reports on the FRESH program and to include such data in the Department's annual report to the General Assembly. Prohibits the Department and local governmental units from considering a household's receipt of FRESH benefits when determining the household's eligibility for other assistance provided under the Code. Provides that the provisions of the amendatory Act are inoperative on and after January 1, 2028. Effective immediately.

LRB104 17409 KTG 30834 b

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
5 adding Section 12-4.13f as follows:

6 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.13f new)

7 Sec. 12-4.13f. Families Receiving Emergency Support for
8 Hunger (FRESH) Program.

9 (a) Definitions. As used in this Section, "SNAP benefits"
10 refers to both SNAP benefits provided under Chapter 51 of
11 Title VII of the United States Code, and SNAP benefits
12 provided under Article XVI of this Code.

13 (b) Eligibility. Subject to available funding, the
14 Department of Human Services shall establish a Families
15 Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger (FRESH) Program to
16 provide FRESH benefits to households subject to termination of
17 the household's SNAP benefits, or a reduction in the
18 household's monthly SNAP benefit allotment, if the termination
19 or reduction in SNAP benefits occurred as a result of one or
20 more members of the household failing to meet federal SNAP
21 work requirements.

22 (c) Payment amount.

23 (1) For households eligible for FRESH benefits based

1 on the reduction of SNAP benefits as set forth in
2 subsection (b), FRESH benefits shall be provided as a
3 one-time lump sum payment in an amount equal to 3 times the
4 difference of:

5 (A) the amount of the household's monthly SNAP
6 allotment for the month prior to the removal of one or
7 more household members from the SNAP benefit unit,
8 minus

9 (B) the reduced amount of the household's monthly
10 SNAP allotment in the month following the removal of
11 one or more household members from the SNAP benefit
12 unit.

13 (2) For households eligible for FRESH benefits based
14 on the termination of SNAP benefits as set forth in
15 subsection (b), FRESH benefits shall be provided as a
16 one-time lump sum payment in an amount equal to 3 times the
17 amount of the household's monthly SNAP allotment in the
18 month prior to the termination of SNAP benefits.

19 (d) Application.

20 (1) To receive FRESH benefits, households must submit
21 an application. The Department of Human Services shall
22 make applications for FRESH benefits available to the
23 public both online and in-person at local Family and
24 Community Resource Centers immediately upon the first of
25 the month following the effective date of this amendatory
26 Act of the 104th General Assembly. The Department shall

1 utilize all relevant information or electronic data
2 sources available to the Department for purposes of
3 assessing eligibility for FRESH benefits. The Department
4 shall make reasonable efforts to limit the information
5 that must be provided by households in the application for
6 FRESH benefits. An application for FRESH benefits shall
7 not be deemed an application for any other public benefits
8 a person may be eligible for under Section 11-4 of Article
9 XI of this Code.

10 (2) Where the reduction or termination of SNAP
11 benefits as set forth in subsection (b) occurred prior to
12 the first of the month following the effective date of
13 this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the
14 Department shall provide FRESH benefits within 10 calendar
15 days following the household's application for FRESH
16 benefits, if such application is made within 180 days from
17 the date the application for FRESH benefits is made
18 available to the public as set forth in paragraph (1) of
19 this subsection.

20 (3) Where the reduction or termination of SNAP
21 benefits as set forth in subsection (b) occurred on or
22 after the first of the month following the effective date
23 of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the
24 Department shall provide FRESH benefits within 10 calendar
25 days following the household's application for FRESH
26 benefits, if such application is made within 60 days from

1 the first of the month following the reduction or
2 termination of SNAP benefits.

3 (e) FRESH benefits under this Section shall be provided to
4 eligible households in the form of cash benefits distributed
5 via disbursement to an Electronic Benefits Transfer card.

6 (f) Data reporting. The Department shall publish monthly
7 data on the number of households who have applied for FRESH
8 benefits, the number of households who have been approved for
9 FRESH benefits, and the amount of FRESH benefits issued to
10 those households. The Department shall further provide this
11 data as part of its annual report to the General Assembly. The
12 report shall exclude any personally identifiable information.

13 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, and
14 to the maximum extent permitted by federal law, for purposes
15 of determining eligibility and the amount of other assistance
16 under this Code, the Department of Human Services and local
17 governmental units administering assistance under this Code,
18 shall exclude from consideration any FRESH benefits provided
19 under this Section.

20 (h) Program termination. The provisions of this Section
21 are inoperative on and after January 1, 2028.

22 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
23 becoming law.