

# OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-497

AN ACT PROVIDING FOOD SECURITY FOR VETERANS,  
TRANSITIONAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER PERSONS  
AFFECTED BY FEDERAL PROGRAM CUTS, A FOOD AS MEDICINE  
WAIVER PROGRAM, MEALS ON WHEELS PROVIDER RATE  
INCREASES AND ALIGNING NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
APPLICATIONS WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
State Resources	SF - Transfer from	\$40 million	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Transfer to	\$40 million	None
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$2.1 million	335,000
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Revenue Gain	375,000	None

Note: SF=Special Fund (Non-appropriated); GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

**Sections 1 and 2** establish the supplemental nutrition assistance transitional benefit account and require the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to transfer \$40 million from the Federal Cuts Response Fund to said account. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will administer this account to support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program, established in section 4 of the bill.

**Sections 3 and 4** result in administrative costs to DSS of approximately \$1.2 million in FY 27 associated with modifying the

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eligibility and benefit system for participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program. DSS may incur additional costs to the extent increased staff are needed to support the program. For context, the annual salary for eligibility staff typically ranges from approximately \$63,5000 to \$96,000, depending on the position.

**Section 3** requires DSS to maintain supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits to veterans who would otherwise lose such benefits due to work requirements under P.L. 119-21, effective 7/1/26. Based on May 2025 enrollment data, there were approximately 300 veterans that may be impacted by such work requirements. Assuming an average benefit of \$194, benefits costs for this group would total approximately \$58,200 per month.

**Section 4** requires DSS to establish a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program for vulnerable persons at risk of losing SNAP due to changes in federal work requirements and eligibility under P.L. 119-21. Assistance must include (1) benefits of \$194 per month for a period of not more than 12 months, (2) access to job training, and (3) case management to help document compliance with work requirements or eligibility for federal exemptions. The bill requires DSS to limit the lookback period for SNAP work requirements to one month and allows for written verification from employers who pay in cash and self-attestation if experiencing homelessness.

For context, initial estimates of the number of individuals potentially impacted by changes in SNAP eligibility requirements totaled 36,000 (including but not limited to veterans, those experiencing homelessness, and households with children under age 18). If everyone in this group were deemed eligible to receive the \$194 monthly benefit under the bill, it would result in a monthly cost of \$7 million.

**Section 5** results in a cost to DSS associated with applying for an 1115 Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid coverage for food as medicine through a pilot program. DSS will incur costs of approximately \$750,000 for contractual support to develop the waiver, with an associated federal

grants revenue gain of \$375,000. The state will also incur programmatic costs to support the three-year pilot program to provide produce prescriptions and nutritional counseling under a food as medicine program for Medicaid beneficiaries with chronic health conditions. The commissioner may provide such beneficiary with vouchers or an electronic debit card restricted to the purchase of a produce prescription. The extent of such costs depends on the scope and structure of the pilot program.

**Section 6** removes the requirement that people serving a probation sentence be doing so “satisfactorily” to be eligible for TFA and SNAP benefits. To the extent this enables an individual to receive benefits sooner than they otherwise would have, DSS will incur TFA costs. For context the average TFA benefit per person is approximately \$250. It is assumed any additional SNAP benefit costs would be covered by federal funds.

**Section 7** results in a cost to DSS associated with modifying applications for individuals receiving federal SNAP benefits. DSS will incur costs to print paper applications and may incur system costs to modify the online application.

**Section 8** results in a cost of at least \$145,000 in FY 27 and \$158,000 in FY 28 associated with requiring rather than allowing DSS to increase the fee schedule for meals on wheels providers serving participants in the Connecticut Home Care Program, effective 7/1/26. Current law allows DSS to provide increases at least equal to cost of living adjustments as measured by the consumer price index. DSS will incur additional costs of approximately \$177,000 in FY 28 associated with the 7/1/27 COLA.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation as well as participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Transitional Benefit Program.