

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0716.01 Shelby Ross x4510

SENATE BILL 25-169

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Jodeh and Pelton R.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Zokaie,

Senate Committees

Agriculture & Natural Resources

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A RESTAURANT MEALS**
102 **PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN RECIPIENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL**
103 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

No later than January 1, 2026, the bill requires the department of human services to submit an application to the United States department of agriculture food and nutrition service to implement a restaurant meals program that allows eligible supplemental nutrition assistance program recipients to purchase hot or prepared foods at participating restaurants.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 26-2-310 as
3 follows:

4 **26-2-310. Restaurant meals program - federal approval -**
5 **eligible SNAP recipients - report - rules - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN
6 THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC SECURITY IN THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

9 (b) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM
10 IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

11 (c) "SNAP" MEANS THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE
12 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS PART 3.

13 (d) "SNAP RECIPIENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL IN A HOUSEHOLD
14 WHO IS RECEIVING BENEFITS FROM SNAP.

15 (e) "USDA" MEANS THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
16 AGRICULTURE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE.

17 (2)(a) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
18 SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE USDA TO IMPLEMENT A
19 RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS SNAP RECIPIENTS TO
20 PURCHASE HOT OR PREPARED FOODS AT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS.

21 (b) A SNAP RECIPIENT IS ELIGIBLE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
22 PROGRAM IF THE SNAP RECIPIENT MEETS THE USDA'S ELIGIBILITY
23 CRITERIA FOR THE PROGRAM.

24 (c) NO LATER THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER RECEIVING APPROVAL
25 FROM THE USDA TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM, THE OFFICE SHALL
26 DEVELOP AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR

1 THE PROGRAM AND THE USDA'S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SNAP
2 RECIPIENTS.

3 (3)(a) AFTER DEVELOPING AND PUBLISHING THE IMPLEMENTATION
4 PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(c) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE
5 DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND
6 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. AT A MINIMUM, THE RULES MUST:

7 (I) ADDRESS HOW THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL VERIFY A SNAP
8 RECIPIENT'S ELIGIBILITY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;
9 AND

10 (II) ESTABLISH THE STATE-LEVEL APPLICATION PROCESS AND
11 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTAURANTS, INCLUDING, AT A
12 MINIMUM, THAT PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

13 (A) ARE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND
14 ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 25-4-1603; AND

15 (B) ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES
16 AGENCY OF THE USDA TO ACCEPT SNAP BENEFITS.

17 (b) THE RULES ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS
18 SECTION MAY ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS TO:

19 (I) UTILIZE PRACTICES OF PROCURING LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS
20 FOR HOT OR PREPARED MEALS;

21 (II) SERVE FOODS THAT REPRESENT DIVERSE CULTURAL
22 TRADITIONS;

23 (III) SERVE GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE REGIONS OF THE STATE;
24 AND

25 (IV) OFFER THE OPTION FOR A PATRON TO CHOOSE HOW MUCH TO
26 PAY FOR THEIR MEAL IN UNDERINVESTED COMMUNITIES.

27 (4) IN ADDITION TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE

1 USDA, THE OFFICE MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
2 RESTAURANTS APPLYING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AS WELL AS TO
3 PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT
4 WITH A THIRD-PARTY VENDOR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL OUTREACH AND
5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4).

6 (5) IN ITS 2027 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMITTEES OF
7 REFERENCE MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203, THE STATE
8 DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE AN UPDATE CONCERNING THE PROGRESS
9 TOWARD IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM. AT A
10 MINIMUM, THE UPDATE MUST INCLUDE THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL
11 APPROVED PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS AND THE NUMBER OF SNAP
12 RECIPIENTS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, BY COUNTY.

13 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
14 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
15 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
16 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
17 institutions.