

A RESOLUTION urging the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to dispense two Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments per month rather than one lump payment at the beginning of the month.

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), administered in Kentucky by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, helps low-income people meeting resource standards to purchase food. Only United States citizens and some legal foreign residents may receive the benefits. Generally speaking, recipients must register, look for, and accept work; and

WHEREAS, more than 872,000 Kentuckians are enrolled in SNAP; and

WHEREAS, at the beginning of each month, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services deposits funds onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer card so that SNAP recipients can access their benefits. No further benefits are deposited during the month; and

WHEREAS, the Senate hereby urges the Cabinet to change this payment method so that two deposits per month would be made to the recipient rather than one; and

WHEREAS, scheduling one payment at the beginning of the month and another at mid-month would help SNAP recipients by spreading out the money they spend throughout the month, therefore cutting down on the bulk buying that often comes after SNAP benefits are paid; and

WHEREAS, two payments a month would also allow recipients to buy perishable food later in the month and cultivate healthy eating habits; and

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, SNAP recipients consume a large quantity of refined grains, sweets, and sugar-sweetened beverages, and their consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains is lower than the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendations; and

WHEREAS, depositing SNAP benefits twice a month would allow recipients to budget the funds more effectively and create a more restrained, consistent approach to food-buying. Additionally, food retailers would be able to schedule employees on a

sustained schedule throughout the month and thus provide a steady income, rather than having to schedule the employees to shifts primarily at the beginning of the month; and

WHEREAS, a two-deposit method would also allow recipients to use their SNAP benefits at farmers markets throughout the month, which would help Kentucky's local farmers by boosting their sales of local products and would help prevent food deserts from spreading throughout certain regions of the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Senate urges the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to deposit Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funds twice each month rather than once.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621; Commissioner James R. Comer, Department of Agriculture, 111 Corporate Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and Governor Steve Beshear, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.