



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 119

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 7021

House of Representatives, March 18, 2025

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. GILCHREST of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-791 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (a) The Department of Social Services shall establish a supplemental
4 nutrition commodities assistance program to provide funds for the
5 purchase of produce, high protein foods or other nutritionally beneficial
6 supplemental foods [, or both,] for soup kitchens, food pantries and
7 emergency shelters. Such foods shall be purchased in bulk by [the
8 Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut Foodshare through in-state
9 wholesalers or brokers, or both, and allotted to existing soup kitchens,
10 food pantries and emergency shelters in accordance with the established
11 policies of [the Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut Foodshare.

12 (b) At least fifteen per cent of funds appropriated for the program
13 pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be used to purchase produce or
14 other products from state farmers. Within available appropriations,

15 funds appropriated pursuant to section 2 of this act shall be increased
 16 not less than three per cent each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. Such
 17 soup kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters [shall pay] may be
 18 charged a handling [charge of] fee of up to five cents per pound in order
 19 to cover the costs incurred by [the Connecticut Food Bank] Connecticut
 20 Foodshare. The food shall be distributed free of charge by the soup
 21 kitchens, food pantries and emergency shelters.

22 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The sum of ten million dollars is
 23 appropriated to the Department of Social Services from the General
 24 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for the supplemental
 25 nutrition commodities assistance program established pursuant to
 26 section 17b-791 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	17b-791
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section

Section 1	July 1, 2025	17b-791
Sec. 2	July 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(b), "in each fiscal year" was removed from the first sentence concerning allocation of fifteen per cent of funds for accuracy and internal consistency, and "Connecticut farmers" was changed to "state farmers" for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

HS *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$10 million	\$10.3 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill appropriates \$10 million to the Department of Social Services (DSS) in FY 26 for the supplemental nutrition commodities assistance program. Program funds support the purchase of foods by Connecticut Foodshare. The bill requires a minimum increase of 3% annually, resulting in a cost of approximately \$10.3 million beginning in FY 27.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7021*****AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR NUTRITION ASSISTANCE.*****SUMMARY**

This bill appropriates \$10 million to the Department of Social Services from the General Fund in FY 26 for its Supplemental Nutrition Commodities Assistance Program. By law, this program gives funding for Connecticut Foodshare (formerly named the Connecticut Food Bank) to buy nutritious food in bulk and distribute it to soup kitchens, food pantries, and emergency shelters.

Starting in FY 27, the bill requires the program's appropriation to increase by at least 3% annually, within available appropriations. Connecticut Foodshare must use at least 15% of these funds to buy produce or other products from Connecticut farmers.

Under current law, soup kitchens, food pantries, and emergency shelters must pay Connecticut Foodshare five cents per pound of food they receive to cover Connecticut Foodshare's costs for buying and distributing the food. The bill allows, rather than requires, Connecticut Foodshare to charge this handling fee.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/04/2025)