



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Substitute Bill No. 7021



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 Section 17b-791 of the general statutes is repealed and the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	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	17b-791
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	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*