RN1620824 **AP 11**

**INTRODUCED BY SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER MOLNAR**

Legislative Counsel’s Digest

AP 11: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: CASH-OUT POLICY.

UNDER EXISTING FEDERAL LAW, NUTRITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS ARE ALLOCATED TO EACH STATE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ARE PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. UNDER EXISTING STATE LAW, THE CALFRESH PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA’S FEDERAL ALLOCATION IS DISTRIBUTED TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BY EACH COUNTY. EXISTING STATE LAW PROVIDES FOR THE STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM FOR THE AGED, BLIND, AND DISABLED (SSP), WHICH REQUIRES THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO SSP RECIPIENTS TO SUPPLEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) PAYMENTS MADE AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO THE FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.

THIS MEASURE WOULD MEMORIALIZE THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO ENACT LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO PROVIDE SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS IN CALIFORNIA WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR SNAP WITH A STATE-FUNDED BENEFIT COMPARABLE TO THE BENEFIT AMOUNT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE RECEIVE UNDER SNAP.

VOTE MAJORITY.

AP 11: RELATING TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP), FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, OFFERS NUTRITION ASSISTANCE TO MILLIONS OF ELIGIBLE, LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND PROVIDES ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES. NEVERTHELESS, MANY LOW-INCOME SENIORS HAVE DIFFICULTIES OBTAINING SUFFICIENT FOOD AND CANNOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE THROUGH SNAP; AND

WHEREAS, SNAP, KNOWN AS CALFRESH IN CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTS MILLIONS OF LOW-INCOME CALIFORNIANS WHO MEET INCOME, RESOURCES, AND OTHER TESTS; AND

WHEREAS, SNAP BENEFITS, WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO MOST HOUSEHOLDS LIVING WITH INCOMES AT, OR BELOW, 130 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, ARE PROVIDED ON A SLIDING SCALE BASED ON INCOME, HOUSEHOLD SIZE, AND CERTAIN HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES; AND

WHEREAS, THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) PROGRAM PROVIDES INCOME SUPPORT TO THE ELDERLY, BLIND, OR DISABLED WHO MEET INCOME, RESOURCES, AND OTHER TESTS, AND THE STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSP) PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTS SSI BENEFITS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS IN CALIFORNIA ARE INELIGIBLE FOR SNAP DUE TO A POLICY KNOWN AS CASH-OUT; AND

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA’S CASH-OUT POLICY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1974, WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEGAN THE COMBINED FEDERAL-STATE SSI/SSP PROGRAM. UNDER THE CASH-OUT POLICY, CALIFORNIA CHOSE THE OPTION OF CASHING OUT SNAP BENEFITS TO SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS BY INCLUDING THE ESTIMATED VALUE OF SNAP BENEFITS, APPROXIMATELY $10 PER MONTH IN CALIFORNIA AS SET IN 1974, WITHIN SSI/SSP BENEFITS; AND

WHEREAS, RECIPIENTS IN CALIFORNIA, ON AVERAGE, WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FAR MORE CALFRESH BENEFITS TODAY THAN THE $10 MONTHLY AMOUNT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SINCE 1974 AS FOOD ASSISTANCE IN THEIR SSI/SSP CHECKS; AND

WHEREAS, CALIFORNIA’S CASH-OUT POLICY HURTS MANY LOW-INCOME SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. CONTINUING THE CASH-OUT POLICY AT THIS TIME POSES MANY SIGNIFICANT RISKS TO THESE INDIVIDUALS’ HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, BY THE SENIOR ASSEMBLY AND THE SENIOR SENATE, JOINTLY, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AT ITS 2016 REGULAR SESSION, A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS VOTING THEREFOR, HEREBY PROPOSES THAT CALIFORNIA PROVIDE SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS IN CALIFORNIA WHO ARE INELIGIBLE FOR SNAP WITH A STATE-FUNDED BENEFIT COMPARABLE TO THE BENEFIT AMOUNT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE RECEIVE UNDER CALFRESH; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE SENIOR LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA RESPECTFULLY MEMORIALIZES THE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ENACT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN THIS MEASURE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS MEASURE BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.