
SENATE BILL 5897

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Rossi, Brown, Braun, Becker, Walsh, Schoesler, Honeyford,
and Zeiger

Read first time 03/21/17. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to food assistance programs; amending RCW
2 74.08A.120; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.120 and 1999 c 120 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The department may establish a food assistance program for
7 legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal food stamp
8 program.

9 (2) The rules for the state food assistance program shall follow
10 exactly the rules of the federal food stamp program except for the
11 provisions pertaining to immigrant status and subsection (6) of this
12 section.

13 (3) The benefit under the state food assistance program shall be
14 established by the legislature in the biennial operating budget.

15 (4) The department may enter into a contract with the United
16 States department of agriculture to use the existing federal food
17 stamp program coupon system for the purposes of administering the
18 state food assistance program.

19 (5) In the event the department is unable to enter into a
20 contract with the United States department of agriculture, the

1 department may issue vouchers to eligible households for the purchase
2 of eligible foods at participating retailers.

3 (6) For the purposes of this section, "eligible foods" does not
4 include sweetened beverages, desserts, and candy.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health
6 services shall seek all necessary exemptions and waivers from and
7 amendments to federal statutes, rules, and regulations to authorize
8 Washington state to prohibit the purchase of sweetened beverages,
9 desserts, and candy with supplemental nutrition assistance program
10 benefits.

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