STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

AN ACT
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Barros, Giraldo, Kisiklak, Casimiro, Solomon, Alzate, Felix, Cassar, and Messier
Date Introduced: February 16, 2022
Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 40-6 of the General Laws entitled "Public Assistance Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

40-6-8.2. Establishment of retail SNAP incentives program.

(a) There shall be established a separate fund to be known as the retail SNAP incentives program (RSIP) fund. The department of human services shall administer the fund. The fund shall be allocated the amount the department deems necessary to effectuate the program, from funds not otherwise expended in the general fund. The fund shall be expended first for the implementation and administration of the retail SNAP incentives program to promote healthy food access and nutrition among Rhode Island SNAP recipients.

(b) SNAP recipients will receive a minimum fifty cents ($0.50) credit on their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card for each one dollar ($1.00) spent on eligible fruits and vegetables at participating RSIP retailers, up to a monthly limit as determined by the department. These credits shall be funded via the RSIP fund established in this section.

(c) The department shall provide an annual report to the general assembly regarding the amount of credits issued pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2023.
This act would allow SNAP recipients to receive a minimum of fifty cents ($0.50) credit on their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card, for each one dollar ($1.00) spent on fruits and vegetables. The department of human services would create a separate SNAP fund and allocate funds from the general fund to effectuate this act.

This act would take effect on January 1, 2023.