



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

# FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2357

PRINTER'S NO. 3192

PRIME SPONSOR: Pashinski

### COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	See Fiscal Impact

**SUMMARY:** HB 2357 PN 3192 creates the Pennsylvania Food Bucks program to provide benefit incentives to SNAP recipients. This legislation will take effect in 120 days.

**ANALYSIS:** This legislation amends Title 3 (Agriculture) by adding Chapter 110 to create the Pennsylvania Food Bucks Program. Language requires the Department of Agriculture to select a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization to administer the program, for an initial term of two years.

Program grantee's responsibilities include:

- Establish program standards and incentive criteria;
- Create an incentive of no less than 40¢ for every \$1 of SNAP benefits redeemed for eligible fruits and vegetables at participating retailers;
- Develop a mechanism to deliver benefit incentives to SNAP recipients;
- Evaluate the program biennially including:
  - amount of funds used for benefit incentives;
  - geographic distribution;
  - amount of funds disbursed at county level;
  - amount of funds disbursed at participating food retailers;

Program grantee shall use the funds for the following purposes:

- Distribute money to partner organizations or directly to SNAP recipients;
- Implementing and evaluating the program, which shall not exceed 40 percent of available funds in a fiscal year;
- Matching contributions for additional Federal, local, or private sources, including money or in-kind contributions;

Eligible food retailers include any SNAP-authorized site or food vendor that redeems SNAP benefits, including farmer's markets, corner and grocery stores, or supermarkets.

Eligible fruits and vegetables are those that meet the criteria specified in the definition of "food" for the SNAP program, whether fresh, canned, dried or frozen, whole or cut without added sugars, fats, oils, or salt.

Language further establishes the Pennsylvania Food Bucks Program restricted account within the General Fund to be used exclusively for the program administration.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The legislation provides the framework for the Pennsylvania Food Bucks Program but does not provide an appropriation. As a result, the fiscal impact from enactment of this legislation would be a function of whether any amount is appropriated by the General Assembly for administering the program, within the Pennsylvania Food Bucks Program restricted account. An appropriation would enable the Department of Agriculture to select a grantee who would administer the program and provide funding.

**PREPARED BY:** Gueorgui Tochev, Budget Analyst  
House Appropriations Committee (D)

**DATE:** June 12, 2024

*Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*