



HJ0063

LRB098 14726 KTG 49613 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Over 2 million Illinois residents receive
3 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
4 this number includes older adults, young children, people with
5 disabilities, and working families; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 60,000 food-insecure Illinois residents
7 enroll or re-enroll in SNAP every month; and

8 WHEREAS, SNAP is an important component of Illinois'
9 economy that generates over \$3 billion in annual spending; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services issues SNAP
11 benefits on the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and
12 10th days of the month; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services has switched from
14 operating on two fiscal months to utilizing one fiscal month,
15 consistent with nearly every other state in the nation, for
16 greater efficiency and accuracy; and

17 WHEREAS, In order to minimize the "stretch" newly approved
18 customers experience between their first and second issuances,
19 the Department of Human Services instituted a 10 day issuance
20 schedule, effective July 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture
2 (USDA), which controls the funding for SNAP, sent a letter to
3 each state encouraging states to stagger SNAP distribution
4 throughout the month; and

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services must balance
6 staggering benefits to meet the needs of retailers with
7 minimizing hardship to SNAP recipients; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Human Services, grocers, and
9 poverty advocates are all interested in establishing a
10 distribution system that meets the needs of all parties; and

11 WHEREAS, On May 31, 2013, the Task Force on Hunger and the
12 Efficient Distribution of SNAP Benefits was created by House
13 Joint Resolution 43 of the 98th General Assembly to discuss
14 these issues and prepare a report to the General Assembly that
15 detailed how SNAP benefits could be distributed more evenly
16 throughout the month without increasing hunger in the State of
17 Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, On October 1, 2013, the Task Force prepared and
19 submitted the report to the General Assembly which detailed an
20 agreed, temporary solution to gradually move, over a 3-month
21 period, current cases from the 4th, 7th, and 10th to the 13th,

1 17th, and 20th days of the month, and to place new and
2 returning cases on the 4th, 7th, and 10th days of the month;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, As the number of cases on the 13th, 17th, and 20th
5 days of the month will diminish over time, there is a need to
6 continue to discuss a permanent solution for 2016 and beyond;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Task Force on Hunger and the
11 Efficient Distribution of SNAP Benefits be re-established and
12 remain active through December 31, 2015; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall add one additional
14 member, appointed as follows: One person appointed by the
15 Governor who is a representative of a labor organization which
16 represents workers primarily in the food industry; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall work to identify ways
19 to achieve a permanent solution on how SNAP benefits are
20 distributed in Illinois that addresses how SNAP benefits could
21 be distributed more evenly throughout the month without
22 increasing hunger in the State of Illinois.