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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 178
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 178's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Troy and Williams

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill provides an additional monthly allocation for households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) with a member 60 years of age and older and that receive less than \$50 in SNAP benefits.
- The bill appropriates about \$12.5 million in FY 2026 and \$21.4 million in FY 2027 for these additional state benefits.

Detailed Analysis

The bill creates a supplemental benefit allotment for eligible households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Eligible households must: (1) include an individual who is 60 years of age or older and (2) receive a monthly SNAP benefit allotment that is less than \$50. The supplemental benefit will be the equivalent of the amount required to provide the household with a total monthly benefit amount of \$50. The bill appropriates about \$12.5 million in FY 2026 and \$21.4 million in FY 2027.

Eligible households with one or two members qualify for at least a “minimum benefit,” which is \$23 per month in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025. There are currently about 700,000 households receiving SNAP benefits in Ohio as of December 2024.¹ According to the American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, about 40% of SNAP households could have had an elderly member in 2023. If this percentage is applied to the current caseload, about 280,000

¹ [Ohio Public Assistance Monthly Statistics Report \(PDF\)](#), which can be accessed by doing a “public assistance statistics” keyword search on the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services’ website: ifs.ohio.gov.

Ohio SNAP households are estimated to have an elderly member. Of these, roughly 20%, or 56,000 households, receive the minimum benefit of \$23.² At a minimum, if the 56,000 elderly households that receive the minimum benefit were provided an additional \$27 per month, the annual cost would be about \$18.1 million per year. However, this number does not include elderly SNAP households that receive benefits of over \$23 but under \$50. For these households, the cost to provide them benefits is indeterminable. However, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks estimates that the number of elderly SNAP recipients in Ohio receiving the minimum benefit could be about 70,000 and cost about \$21.4 million annually.³ There would also be administrative costs to determine which households are to receive additional benefits, calculate the amounts, and to provide these benefits.

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² [Seven Facts About Older Adults and SNAP](https://www.ncoa.org/2017/07/27/seven-facts-about-older-adults-and-snap/), which can be accessed on the National Council on Aging's website: [ncoa.org](https://www.ncoa.org/).

³ Based on the Characteristics of SNAP Participants Report in 2017 and 2019.