

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
78-38 (COR)	Shelly V. Calvo	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "MEALS FOR AT-RISK HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025."	3/5/25 3:26 p.m. 3/10/25 11:24 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 78-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo



**AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND
TO *ADD* A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7,
CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE
ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING
THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP)
UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE
THIS ACT AS THE “MEALS FOR AT-RISK
HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025.”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the “Meals for At-risk
Households Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
that one in five of Guam residents rely on benefits from the U.S. Department of
Agriculture’s (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to
supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health
and well-being. Locally administered by the Division of Public Welfare within the
Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS, Department), SNAP
provides federally funded food nutrition benefits to thousands of eligible low-income
island residents and households in need. The largest among the USDA’s safety net of
domestic nutrition assistance programs, SNAP allocated \$179 million to Guam in
fiscal year 2023 and distributed this assistance to recipients as electronic benefits

1 transfer (EBT) payments for food purchased at any of Guam’s 243 USDA-authorized
2 food retailers. According to the latest SNAP participation and benefits data, 33,900
3 SNAP recipients living in 12,521 households in Guam received over \$10 million in
4 SNAP payments for the period of November 2024. Whereas the program’s
5 administrative costs are shared equally by the federal and local government, SNAP
6 benefits are 100% federally funded, thus generating significant economic activity for
7 food retailers and creating jobs in a variety of sectors.

8 *I Liheslatura* however finds that purchasing, preparing or storing food can be a
9 challenge for many of the island’s SNAP recipients who are elderly, living with
10 disabilities, or experiencing homelessness—collectively accounting for approximately
11 23% of the SNAP households in Guam. These individuals may find it difficult to
12 prepare meals for themselves; or, in the case of the unhoused, do not have a place to
13 store and cook food. Without tools or appliances, or the physical abilities necessary to
14 prepare their own meals, these households are likely to experience food insecurity due
15 to limited access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods. Food-insecure and low-
16 income people are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition, which is linked with
17 increased risk of diet-related diseases as well as higher healthcare costs and decreased
18 productivity.

19 Seeking to continue this august body’s efforts to improve the food security by
20 providing more equitable resources for at-risk residents, *I Liheslatura* finds that existing
21 federal law authorizes the states and U.S. territories to provide greater access to
22 nutritious meals for households who may have barriers to acquiring, preparing and
23 storing food. Currently implemented in nine states including Arizona, California,
24 Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, a
25 federally approved option under SNAP called the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)
26 allows eligible SNAP recipients who are elderly, living with disabilities, or
27 experiencing homelessness—those less able to use food assistance in traditional

ways—with the choice of using their existing EBT benefits at USDA-approved restaurants that offer low-cost meal options.

It is therefore the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, under the authority of the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*, to implement the RMP as an optional component of SNAP no later than January 1, 2026. Subject to amendments by Section 4014 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 that include certain oversight provisions for states and U.S. territories that opt to participate in the RMP as part of SNAP, the Department will be responsible for selecting restaurants that meet a documented need in an underserved geographical area, and implementing a system that ensures that only RMP-eligible households can use SNAP benefits at the participating restaurant. All USDA-authorized restaurants approved for participation in the RMP must sign a contract with the Department to provide prepared food at concession prices for SNAP customers.

SECTION 3. § 2701 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

“§ 2701. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article:

(a) “Department” means the Department of Public Health and Social Services;

(b) “Food” means any food or food product for human consumption except alcoholic beverages and tobacco and shall include seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal consumption for the eligible household;

(c) “Food coupons” means any coupon, stamp or type of certificate used under the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977;

(d) “Food stamp program” means a program [~~under the Food Stamp Act of 1977~~](since renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(SNAP) [~~by the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008~~], which provides financial assistance intended to raise levels of nutrition among low-income households pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*;

(e) “Restaurant meals program” (RMP) means a program implemented as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that provides households containing elderly or disabled members, and their spouses, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(j), or homeless individuals, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(l), the option to use SNAP benefits at private establishments that contract with the Department to offer meals for eligible individuals at concession prices in accordance with 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h);

(f) “SNAP benefits” means the value of supplemental nutrition assistance, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(d), provided to a household by means of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) [~~under~~] pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, or other means of provided assistance as determined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); and

~~[(f)](g)~~ “Temporary Assistance for Needy Families” (TANF) means the federally grant funded, time limited program, to assist families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives cannot provide for the family’s basic needs pursuant to Subtitle B, Chapter II of 45 U.S.C.”

SECTION 4. § 2702 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

“§ 2702. Authorization.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the Division of [~~Social Services~~] Public Welfare, is authorized to implement the food stamp program locally pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq., and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Personal

1 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 [~~and the Food and~~
2 ~~Nutrition Act of 2008~~]:

3 (a) Householders determined by the Department to be eligible for
4 assistance under the food stamp program may obtain SNAP benefits or other
5 means of provided assistance as determined by the USDA;

6 (b) The food stamp program shall include the Restaurant Meals
7 Program in accordance with the provisions of § 2707 of this Article;

8 (c) SNAP benefits shall be used to purchase food from retail food stores
9 [~~which have been approved for the participation in the food stamp program~~]
10 and for qualified individuals to use at restaurants that participate in the
11 Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with the provisions of § 2707 of this
12 Article.”

13 **SECTION 5.** § 2703 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated,
14 is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

15 **“§ 2703. Duties of the Department.**

16 The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the Division
17 of [~~Social Services~~] Public Welfare, shall:

18 (a) adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the food stamp
19 program, which shall include the Restaurant Meals Program pursuant to §
20 2707 of this Article;

21 (b) cooperate with the federal government and do all things necessary
22 to continue eligibility under the food stamp program;

23 (c) comply with the requirements of the Federal Food and Nutrition Act
24 of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 et seq.[-]; and

25 (d) exempt individuals domiciled in Guam from the application of
26 Section 115 of the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity
27 Reconciliation Act of 1996, 21 U.S.C. §§ 862a(a)(1) and (2), by allowing

1 payment of SNAP and TANF benefits to an otherwise eligible individual who
2 has been convicted of a felony offense under federal, state or Guam criminal
3 law which has as an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled
4 substance, as defined in Section 102(6) of the Federal Controlled Substances
5 Act, 21 U.S.C. § 802(c), if

6 (1) the individual has successfully completed probation, parole,
7 community corrections, a reentry court program, or any other post-
8 conviction monitoring program ordered by a court; or

9 (2) the individual is successfully complying with conditions of
10 probation, parole, or community corrections, the terms of participation
11 in a reentry court program, or the requirements of any other post-
12 conviction monitoring program ordered by a court.”

13 **SECTION 6.** A new § 2707 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code
14 Annotated, is hereby *added* to read as follows:

15 **“§ 2707. Restaurant Meals Program.**

16 (a) Subject to federal approval of the state plan, the Department of Public
17 Health and Social Services (Department) shall establish the Restaurant Meals
18 Program (RMP) as part of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
19 (SNAP) pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et*
20 *seq.*, and subject to the provisions of 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h) and 7 CFR § 278.1(d)(3).

21 (b) The purpose of the RMP is to expand food access to individuals who do
22 not have a place to store and cook food; may not be able to prepare food; or do not
23 have access to a grocery store.

24 (c) The Department shall develop and implement a plan to begin participation
25 in the RMP no later than January 1, 2026.

26 (d) The RMP shall permit SNAP households containing elderly or disabled
27 members, and their spouses, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(j), or homeless

1 individuals, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(l), to use their electronic benefits transfer
2 (EBT) card to purchase prepared food at concessional prices from restaurants that
3 have entered in a contract with the Department and authorized by the U.S.
4 Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in the RMP in accordance with
5 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h). The EBT system shall electronically identify an eligible
6 recipient at the point of sale.

7 (e) Before participating in the RMP, a restaurant shall submit an application
8 and be approved under a process determined by the Department; become a SNAP
9 provider licensed by the USDA; and be able to process EBT card payments at the point
10 of sale.

11 (f) A restaurant shall not operate as a vendor in the RMP unless the restaurant:

12 (1) offers meals at concessional prices by: serving meals that cost less
13 than that which would be charged to customers not using SNAP benefits with
14 a sales price at least 10 percent (10%) less than the sales price charged to
15 customers who are not using SNAP benefits to pay for similar meals; serving
16 meals already discounted for certain customers; or serving meals offered to
17 all customers at advertised special or sale prices;

18 (2) permits customers to make in-store purchases;

19 (3) provides full accessibility for the disabled;

20 (4) has more than fifty percent (50%) of its total sales in food;

21 (5) collects SNAP benefits at the time of meal delivery;

22 (6) posts a sign notifying the public of the restaurant's participation in
23 the RMP; and

24 (7) complies with all federal, state, and local health and safety laws and
25 regulations.

26 (g) A restaurant operating as a bar or tavern shall not be eligible to participate
27 in the RMP.

1 (h) In accordance with federal law, the Department shall adopt regulations to
2 verify household eligibility for participation in the RMP; establish eligibility
3 standards, an application process, and an approval process for restaurants to
4 participate in the RMP; and implement the provisions of this Section.”

5 **SECTION 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to
6 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall
7 not affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
8 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
9 severable.

10 **SECTION 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall become effective upon
11 enactment.