



HOUSE BILL 747: No Work Requirement Exemption/FNS Benefits.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Health Care. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 7, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. K. Baker, Lambeth, Zenger, Paré	Prepared by:	Jessica Boney
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: House Bill 747 would require the Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") to assign individuals who are over the age of 16 and under the age of 60 to an employment and training program in order to receive benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), unless a specified exemption applies. House Bill 747 would not apply to the mandatory work requirement exemptions found in 7 CFR §273.7(b)(1).

CURRENT LAW: 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o)(6)(E) allows a state agency to provide a number of exemptions such that the average monthly number of exemptions in effect during the fiscal year does not exceed 12 percent of the number of covered individuals in the State.

Under 7 CFR §273.7(b)(1), the following persons are exempt from SNAP work requirements: (i) a person younger than 16 years of age or a person 60 years of age or older, a person age 16 or 17 who is not the head of a household or who is attending school, or is enrolled in an employment training program, on at least a half-time basis, is also exempt; (ii) a person physically or mentally unfit for employment; (iii) a person subject to and complying with any work requirement under title IV of the Social Security Act; (iv) a parent or other household member responsible for the care of a dependent child under 6 or an incapacitated person, (v) a person receiving unemployment compensation, (vi) regular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program; (vii) employed or self-employed person working a minimum of 30 hours weekly or earning weekly wages at least equal to the Federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours; or (ix) a student enrolled at least half-time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education.

BILL ANALYSIS:

DHHS would not be allowed to exercise the State's option to provide any exemptions from the work requirements under 7 U.S.C. § 2015(o)(6)(E).

DHHS would be required to assign all individuals over the age of 16 and under the age of 60 to an employment and training program unless an individual meets one the following:

- Is currently subject to and complying with a work registration requirement under Title IV of the Social Security Act or the federal-State unemployment compensation system, in which case failure by the individual to comply with any work requirement the individual is subject to will be the same as failure to comply with the general work requirement.
- Is a parent or other member of a household responsible for the care of a dependent child under age 6 or of an incapacitated person.

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- Is a bona fide student enrolled at least half time in any recognized school, training program, or institution of higher education unless the student is enrolled in an institution of higher education and is ineligible to participate under SNAP.
- Is a regular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program.
- Is employed a minimum of 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings that equal the minimum hourly rate under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended, multiplied by 30 hours.
- Is an individual between the ages of 16 and 18 who is not head of a household or attending school or enrolled in an employment training program on at least a half-time basis.

House Bill 747 would not apply to mandatory exemptions to work requirements pursuant to CFR §273.7(b)(1) or other federal law or regulation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it became law.