CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Department of Human Services

DIVISION: *(If any)*

RULE IDENTIFIER: 218-RICR-20-00-1

RULE TITLE: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REASON FOR RULEMAKING:

Updated Federally mandated increases to the SNAP allotments, the standard deduction, the homeless shelter expense, the excess shelter deduction, the standard utility allowance, the unearned income threshold and the minimum monthly benefit.

1.2.2 A(1)(b) - Added and identified a fourth category to the Special Household definition.

1.4.13 A(9) - Added language that clarified the Student Eligibility Requirement to better align with Federal policy.

§§ 1.5.2, 1.5.3, § 1.5.5, and § 1.13 - Added Substantial Lottery and Gambling Winnings language per Federal policy pertaining to income, excluded income, and resources.

1.5.7 - Clarified language regarding medical expense deductions.

1.9 - Added an additional category to Intentional Program Violations per Federal regulation.

1.11.4 - Updated transportation allowance amount and removed dependent care cost limit.

1.15.1(D)(4)(a) - removed the $1,$3,$5 allotment reference per Federal regulation.

1.16 - Added Fraud referral procedure, struck duplicative EBT language.

ANY FINDING REQUIRED BY LAW AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RULE: None

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: The public comment period ended on 11/29/19, and no comments were received.

CHANGE TO TEXT OF THE RULE: No changes have been made between the text of the rule as proposed and the final rule.

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: Updates that allow for inflation will increase allowable deduction amounts as well as income eligibility standards resulting in increased benefits to SNAP participants. In addition, Federal regulations have been defined so SNAP requirements are clearly understood lessening confusion for applicants and recipients.