

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, the 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: This rule is being amended to comply with and implement Federally mandated increases to the Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) for recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program. Other amendments include the Federally mandated implementation of modified Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit exceptions per FNS under the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023, and implementation of the Excessive Replacement Card Notice per FNS policy (276.6b.6). Lastly, a change to gender-neutral pronouns throughout the regulation to be more inclusive. Amendments include: The modified ABAWD exemptions per FNS under the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2023, at 1.11.9; the FY 2024 COLA Adjustments at 1.5.7 and 1.15; the addition of the Excessive Replacement Card Notice at 1.16 per FNS policy 274.6.b.6; and the inclusion of gender-neutral pronouns.

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

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS: The comment period ended on December 15, 2023. No comments were submitted.

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: To meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, benefit amounts and some deductions have increased to reflect recent changes in cost of living due to inflation. The addition of the new exception definitions to the ABAWD time limit under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 recognizes the barriers facing homeless, veterans, and extended foster care individuals and exempts that population from ABAWD requirements. The change to the EBT policy eliminates the requirement of contacting DHS staff prior to the 5th card replacement, so there will be no withholding of the 5th or more card.