

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/15

SPONSOR Rodriguez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program SB 293

ANALYST Boerner

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 427 Guidelines Limiting SNAP Purchases (Pirtle)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 293 appropriates \$200 thousand dollars from the general fund to HSD for state-funded food stamp supplement benefits for elderly and disabled individuals.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2016 shall revert to the general fund.

In its FY16 budget request, HSD estimated the cost to raise the state supplement to the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) payment from \$25 to \$30 per person per month would cost \$164 thousand in general fund revenues. Funding for this purpose is not included in the current version of the HAFB appropriation bill for HSD.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HSD currently administers a state general fund food stamp supplement program that provides a supplemental food stamp benefit that is separate from the federal SNAP program also administered by HSD. The state-funded supplemental SNAP program is for individuals who: 1)

are eligible for and receive federal SNAP benefits; 2) are defined as elderly or disabled; 3) do not receive any earned income; and, 4) the household receives a federal SNAP benefit of less than \$25 prior to any claim recoupment. For purposes of SNAP, any individual over the age of 60 is defined as elderly.

The average monthly state food stamp supplement caseload is projected to be 10,669 in FY16. SNAP recipients who meet the eligibility requirements for the supplement who received less than \$25 dollars in federal SNAP benefits receive the state food stamp supplement to ensure that they receive a minimum monthly benefit of \$25. The current minimum SNAP benefit is \$16.00 per month.

CEB/bb/aml