

THE SNAP PREPARED MEALS PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY, DISABLED AND HOMELESS HB3343

REPRESENTATIVE SONYA HARPER • SENATOR OMAR AQUINO

THE PROBLEM

- ▶ The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly Food Stamps, provides assistance in purchasing food to 1.8 million Illinoisans who otherwise would go hungry.
- ▶ SNAP benefits can only be used to purchase food products made to be prepared and consumed at home; they may not be used to purchase hot food at the grocery store or a restaurant.
- ▶ This restriction prevents many SNAP recipients who are elderly, disabled, or experiencing homelessness from obtaining hot food with their SNAP benefits because they:
 - + Have physical barriers to preparing food for themselves
 - + Struggle to use cooking facilities safely
 - + Lack access to cooking facilities
 - + Lack access to safe and effective food storage

THE SOLUTION

Illinois should follow the lead of 4 other states (Arizona, California, Florida, Rhode Island) and implement a Prepared Meals Program.

- ▶ This program would allow SNAP recipients who are elderly, disabled, or experiencing homelessness to use their SNAP benefits to buy hot food at the grocery store or restaurants that opt in to the program.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Requires the state of Illinois to begin operating a Prepared Meals Program by Jan. 1, 2020.



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FOR MORE
INFORMATION

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

AARP Illinois

The ARK

Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Metropolitan Family Services

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

Planned Parenthood

Project IRENE

River Bend Foodbank

United Way