

**ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2020**  
**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**  
**LB255**

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**Hearing Date:** Thursday February 07, 2019  
**Committee On:** Health and Human Services  
**Introducer:** McCollister  
**One Liner:** Change provisions relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**  
Advanced to General File

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**Vote Results:**  
**Aye:** 4 Senators Cavanaugh, Howard, Walz, Williams  
**Nay:**  
**Absent:**  
**Present Not Voting:** 3 Senators Arch, Hansen, B., Murman

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**Oral Testimony:**

**Proponents:**

Senator John McCollister  
Kathy Siefken  
David Holmquist  
Kent Rogert  
Steve Sheridan  
Danielle Galvin  
Edison McDonald  
Erin Feichtinger  
Shelley Mann  
Chrissy Tonkinson  
Ashley Frevert  
James Goddard  
Kathy Nordby

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Nebraska Grocery Industry Association  
AARP Nebraska  
LeadingAge Nebraska  
Center for People in Need  
Financial Hope Collaborative  
The Arc of Nebraska  
Together  
Food Bank for the Heartland  
Voices for Children in Nebraska  
Community Action of Nebraska  
Nebraska Appleseed  
Health Center Association of Nebraska

**Opponents:**

Matt Wallen

**Representing:**

Department of Health and Human Services

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 255 amends the eligibility provisions for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

There is a two part income eligibility test under SNAP - first gross income eligibility and second net income eligibility. The current gross income eligibility limit in Nebraska is 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. When a family applies

for SNAP, the first question is whether their gross income is under 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. If the family meets the gross income eligibility requirement, the next step is to look at net income eligibility. Families may make allowable deductions from their gross income in a few categories like housing and child care costs. To be eligible for SNAP, those deductions must bring a family's net eligibility under 100% of the federal poverty guidelines for that family size.

LB 255 amends Neb. Rev. Stat. 68-1017.02(3)(b)(i) to set gross eligibility at 140% of the federal poverty guidelines for SNAP benefits. The net income eligibility limit would not change. (Page 4, lines 20-26.)

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Sara Howard, Chairperson