HF 1900 (Nadeau)/SF 2868 (Clark)

Ensuring Food Security for Minnesota Families in Need

2025-26 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL SUMMARY:

HF 1900 (Nadeau)/SF2868 (Clark) adjusts the eligibility requirements for public assistance under the state Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to remove the 10-year random drug testing provision for people with a prior drug felony conviction.

The Importance of SNAP for Agriculture:

Increases Food Security: In 2024, Minnesota SNAP participants spent $857 million on food creating a consistent demand for agricultural products from both rural and urban areas.

Supports Farm Income: By boosting food demand, SNAP helps increase the income of farmers and is linked to slightly higher farm commodity prices.

Supports Rural Economies: Every $1 in SNAP spending generates $1.50 in local economic activity — helping local grocers stay open, supporting jobs, and maintaining rural economic stability.

Creates Jobs: SNAP outlays can support a significant number of jobs in the agriculture industry. Research shows a $1 billion increase in SNAP benefits can support around 480 full-time agriculture jobs.

Reduces Errors: Clear and consistent eligibility rules for SNAP benefits can help reduce error rate levels, which will impact state costs as H.R.1 takes effect. Minnesota's patchwork system of drug testing results in complex, error-prone eligibility determinations. Removing drug testing is an effective way to reduce the error rate and prevent costly penalties.

In a recent statewide survey, **61% of Minnesotans support removing federal and state restrictions,** including for past drug offenses, on **providing temporary government assistance** such as the SNAP program to individuals and minor children who qualify based on financial need.

SOURCE: UP ONE INSIGHTS, OCT/NOV 2025 (600 LIKELY VOTERS)

WHY DO WE NEED THIS BILL?

Under current state law, a person convicted of a drug felony within ten years of their SNAP application date or recertification date may be subject to random drug testing. No other type of felony conviction carries this requirement. By removing this outdated provision, the bill will reduce barriers to benefits for families and children in need and eliminate errors in determining eligibility.

Here's what's happening:

- In states that previously have fully ended the SNAP drug felony ban, ***rates of substance use disorder were lower*** than states with the felony drug SNAP ban still in place, showing that fewer barriers to supports like SNAP improve outcomes.
- It is harder for people who are going hungry to find a job, secure stable housing, or be able to give back to their community. ***One in five of all formerly incarcerated people suffer from food insecurity***–twice the rate of the general population.
- Barriers to SNAP participation also subject families to hunger. Families with an adult who faces barriers to food benefits have fewer ways to meet their basic food needs, contributing to family food insecurity.

3 out of 4

Minnesota voters prefer approaching drug use as a **public health issue with a focus on reducing the harms of addiction,** rather than a criminal problem with a focus on arrests and incarceration. Majorities of Democrats (90%), Independents (73%), and Republicans (63%) in the state prefer the public health approach.

SOURCE: DATA FOR PROGRESS SURVEY IN MINNESOTA, 2023 (616 LIKELY VOTERS)

SUPPORTERS:

IMPACT MN · the food group · DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE · MGA Minnesota Grocers Association · MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID · second harvest HEARTLAND · AGRIGROWTH Advancing Agriculture and Food · MINNESOTA JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER