

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
78-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs; and further amended on the Floor.	Shelly V. Calvo V. Anthony Ada Sabrina Salas Matanane Tina Rose Muña Barnes Vincent A.V. Borja Joe S. San Agustin Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao William A. Parkinson Telo T. Taitague Frank F. Blas, Jr. Therese M. Terlaje Jesse A. Lujan Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Christopher M. Dueñas	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "MEALS FOR AT-RISK HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025."	3/5/25 3:26 p.m. 3/10/25 11:24 a.m.	3/14/25 4:51 p.m.	Committee on Health and Veterans Affairs.	Request: 3/14/25 3/21/25	4/15/28 2:00 p.m.	5/13/25 As Amended.	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE ASSIGNED	NOTES	
	5/27/25	AN ACT TO <i>AMEND</i> §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "MEALS FOR AT-RISK HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025."	6/3/25	6/5/25	6/17/25	38-23	6/17/25	Received: 6/18/25 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-25-0748	

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
GOVERNOR



JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LT. GOVERNOR

UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

38GL-25-0748

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

June 17, 2025

JUN 17 2025

Time: 4:38 pm
Received: [Signature]

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., *Speaker*
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Bill No. 78-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO ADD A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE "MEALS FOR AT-RISK HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

The "Meals for At-risk Households Act of 2025" addresses food insecurity on Guam. This bill is a pivotal step forward in our mission of ensuring the well-being of Guam's most vulnerable residents. Bill 78 also introduces the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), expanding food access for our elderly, those with disabilities, and those who are experiencing homelessness.

These recipients, numbering in the thousands, continue to face barriers to accessing nutritious meals, not solely due to financial hardship, but because of the challenges in food storage and preparation. Whether dealing with physical limitation, the absence of a stable home, or other barriers, no individual should be deprived of the ability to obtain a hot, ready-to-eat meal. The enactment of this legislation establishes the critical framework to remedy that inequity.

For these reasons, I sign Bill No. 78-38 (COR) into law as **Public Law No. 38-23**.

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam



38GL-25-0748
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
June 18, 2025

1:25 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 78-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-23
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 78-38 (COR)**, “AN ACT TO *AMEND* §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO *ADD* A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO CITE THIS ACT AS THE ‘MEALS FOR AT-RISK HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025’,” was on the 3rd day of June 2025, duly and regularly passed.



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 5 day of June, 2025, at 4:56 o'clock p.M.



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Assistant Staff Officer
***Maga'håga's* Office**

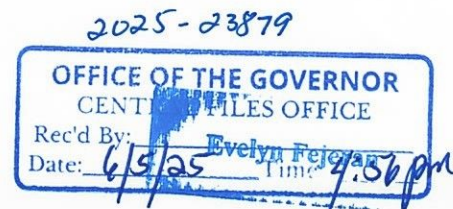
APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 6/17/2025

Public Law No. 38-23



I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 78-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Health
and Veterans Affairs; and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Shelly V. Calvo
V. Anthony Ada
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Vincent A.V. Borja
Joe S. San Agustin
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
William A. Parkinson
Telo T. Taitague
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Therese M. Terlaje
Jesse A. Lujan
Sabina Flores Perez
Chris Barnett
Christopher M. Dueñas

**AN ACT TO AMEND §§ 2701, 2702, AND 2703; AND TO
ADD A NEW § 2707; ALL OF ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 2,
TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
IMPLEMENTING THE RESTAURANT MEALS
PROGRAM (RMP) UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP); AND TO
CITE THIS ACT AS THE “MEALS FOR AT-RISK
HOUSEHOLDS ACT OF 2025.”**

1 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “Meals for At-risk
3 Households Act of 2025.”

1 **Section 2. Legislative Findings and Intent.** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that
2 one (1) in five (5) of Guam residents rely on benefits from the U.S. Department of
3 Agriculture’s (USDA) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to
4 supplement their grocery budget so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health
5 and well-being. Locally administered by the Division of Public Welfare within the
6 Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS, Department), SNAP
7 provides federally funded food nutrition benefits to thousands of eligible low-income
8 island residents and households in need. The largest among the USDA’s safety net of
9 domestic nutrition assistance programs, SNAP allocated \$179 Million Dollars to Guam
10 in fiscal year 2023 and distributed this assistance to recipients as electronic benefits
11 transfer (EBT) payments for food purchased at any of Guam’s two hundred forty-three
12 (243) USDA-authorized food retailers. According to the latest SNAP participation and
13 benefits data, thirty-three thousand nine hundred (33,900) SNAP recipients living in
14 twelve thousand five hundred twenty-one (12,521) households in Guam received over
15 \$10 Million Dollars in SNAP payments for the period of November 2024. Whereas, the
16 program’s administrative costs are shared equally by the federal and local government,
17 SNAP benefits are one hundred percent (100%) federally funded, thus generating
18 significant economic activity for food retailers and creating jobs in a variety of sectors.

19 *I Liheslatura*, however, finds that purchasing, preparing or storing food can be a
20 challenge for many of the island’s SNAP recipients who are elderly, living with
21 disabilities, or experiencing homelessness, collectively accounting for approximately
22 twenty-three percent (23%) of the SNAP households in Guam. These individuals may
23 find it difficult to prepare meals for themselves; or, in the case of the unhoused, do not
24 have a place to store and cook food. Without tools or appliances, or the physical abilities
25 necessary to prepare their own meals, these households are likely to experience food
26 insecurity due to limited access to nutritionally adequate and safe foods. Food-insecure
27 and low-income people are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition, which is linked with

1 increased risk of diet-related diseases as well as higher healthcare costs and decreased
2 productivity.

3 Seeking to continue this august body's efforts to improve the food security by
4 providing more equitable resources for at-risk residents, *I Liheslatura* finds that existing
5 federal law authorizes the U.S. states and territories to provide greater access to
6 nutritious meals for households who may have barriers to acquiring, preparing and
7 storing food. Currently implemented in nine (9) states, including Arizona, California,
8 Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Rhode Island, and Virginia, a
9 federally approved option under SNAP called the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)
10 allows eligible SNAP recipients who are elderly, living with disabilities, or
11 experiencing homelessness - those less able to use food assistance in traditional ways -
12 with the choice of using their existing EBT benefits at USDA-approved restaurants that
13 offer low-cost meal options.

14 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, under the authority of the
15 Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*, to implement the RMP
16 as an optional component of SNAP no later than January 1, 2026. Subject to
17 amendments by Section 4014 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to the Food and Nutrition
18 Act of 2008 that include certain oversight provisions for U.S. states and territories that
19 opt to participate in the RMP as part of SNAP, the Department will be responsible for
20 selecting restaurants that meet a documented need in an underserved geographical area,
21 and implementing a system that ensures that only RMP-eligible households can use
22 SNAP benefits at the participating restaurant. All USDA-authorized restaurants
23 approved for participation in the RMP must sign a contract with the Department to
24 provide prepared food at concession prices for SNAP customers.

25 **Section 3.** § 2701 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
26 hereby *amended* to read as follows:

27 **“§ 2701. Definitions.**

1 For the purposes of this Article:

2 (a) 'Department' means the Department of Public Health and
3 Social Services;

4 (b) 'Food' means any food or food product for human
5 consumption except alcoholic beverages and tobacco and shall include
6 seeds and plants for use in gardens to produce food for the personal
7 consumption for the eligible household;

8 (c) 'Food coupons' means any coupon, stamp or type of
9 certificate used under the Federal Food Stamp Act of 1977;

10 (d) 'Food stamp program' means a program since renamed the
11 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides
12 financial assistance intended to raise levels of nutrition among low-
13 income households pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of
14 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*;

15 (e) 'Restaurant meals program' (RMP) means a program
16 implemented as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
17 (SNAP) that provides households containing elderly or disabled
18 members, and their spouses, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(j), or
19 homeless individuals, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(l), the option to use
20 SNAP benefits at private establishments that contract with the
21 Department to offer meals for eligible individuals at concession prices
22 in accordance with 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h);

23 (f) 'SNAP benefits' means the value of supplemental
24 nutrition assistance, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(d), provided to a
25 household by means of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) pursuant
26 to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, or other means of

1 provided assistance, as determined by the United States Department of
2 Agriculture (USDA); and

3 (g) ‘Temporary Assistance for Needy Families’ (TANF)
4 means the federally grant funded, time limited program, to assist
5 families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives
6 cannot provide for the family’s basic needs pursuant to Subtitle B,
7 Chapter II of 45 U.S.C.”

8 **Section 4.** § 2702 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated,
9 is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

10 “§ 2702. **Authorization.**

11 The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the
12 Division of Public Welfare, is authorized to implement the food stamp
13 program locally pursuant to the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7
14 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*, and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal
15 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996:

16 (a) Householders determined by the Department to be eligible
17 for assistance under the food stamp program may obtain SNAP benefits
18 or other means of provided assistance as determined by the USDA;

19 (b) The food stamp program shall include the Restaurant
20 Meals Program in accordance with the provisions of § 2707 of this
21 Article;

22 (c) SNAP benefits shall be used to purchase food from retail
23 food stores and for qualified individuals to use at restaurants that
24 participate in the Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with the
25 provisions of § 2707 of this Article.”

26 **Section 5.** § 2703 of Article 7, Chapter 2, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated,
27 is hereby *amended* to read as follows:

1 **“§ 2703. Duties of the Department.**

2 The Department of Public Health and Social Services, through the
3 Division of Public Welfare, shall:

4 (a) adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the food
5 stamp program, which shall include the Restaurant Meals Program
6 pursuant to § 2707 of this Article;

7 (b) cooperate with the federal government and do all things
8 necessary to continue eligibility under the food stamp program;

9 (c) comply with the requirements of the Federal Food and
10 Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*; and

11 (d) exempt individuals domiciled in Guam from the
12 application of Section 115 of the Federal Personal Responsibility and
13 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, 21 U.S.C. §§ 862a(a)(1)
14 and (2), by allowing payment of SNAP and TANF benefits to an
15 otherwise eligible individual who has been convicted of a felony
16 offense under federal, state or Guam criminal law which has as an
17 element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance, as
18 defined in Section 102(6) of the Federal Controlled Substances Act, 21
19 U.S.C. § 802(c), if

20 (1) the individual has successfully completed
21 probation, parole, community corrections, a reentry court
22 program, or any other post-conviction monitoring program
23 ordered by a court; or

24 (2) the individual is successfully complying with
25 conditions of probation, parole, or community corrections, the
26 terms of participation in a reentry court program, or the

1 requirements of any other post-conviction monitoring program
2 ordered by a court.”

3 **Section 6.** A new § 2707 is hereby *added* to Article 7 of Chapter 2, Title 10,
4 Guam Code Annotated, to read as follows:

5 **“§ 2707. Restaurant Meals Program.**

6 (a) Subject to federal approval of the state plan and an identified
7 funding source, the Department of Public Health and Social Services
8 (Department) may establish the Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) as part of
9 the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) pursuant to
10 the Federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. § 2011 *et seq.*, and
11 subject to the provisions of 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h) and 7CFR § 278.1(d)(3).

12 (b) The purpose of the RMP is to expand food access to individuals
13 who do not have a place to store and cook food; may not be able to prepare
14 food; or do not have access to a grocery store.

15 (c) The Department shall develop and implement a plan to begin
16 participation in the RMP upon enactment of this act.

17 (d) The RMP shall permit SNAP households containing elderly or
18 disabled members, and their spouses, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(j), or
19 homeless individuals, as defined in 7 U.S.C. § 2012(l), to use their electronic
20 benefits transfer (EBT) card to purchase prepared food at concessional prices
21 from restaurants that have entered in a contract with the Department and
22 authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in
23 the RMP in accordance with 7 U.S.C. § 2018(h). The EBT system shall
24 electronically identify an eligible recipient at the point of sale.

25 (e) Before participating in the RMP, a restaurant shall submit an
26 application and be approved under a process determined by the Department;

1 become a SNAP provider licensed by the USDA; and be able to process EBT
2 card payments at the point of sale.

3 (f) A restaurant shall not operate as a vendor in the RMP unless the
4 restaurant:

5 (1) offers meals at concessional prices by: serving meals that
6 cost less than that which would be charged to customers not using
7 SNAP benefits with a sales price at least ten percent (10%) less than the
8 sales price charged to customers who are not using SNAP benefits to
9 pay for similar meals; serving meals already discounted for certain
10 customers; or serving meals offered to all customers at advertised
11 special or sale prices;

12 (2) permits customers to make in-store purchases;

13 (3) provides full accessibility for the disabled;

14 (4) has more than fifty percent (50%) of its total sales in food;

15 (5) collects SNAP benefits at the time of meal delivery;

16 (6) posts a sign notifying the public of the restaurant's
17 participation in the RMP; and

18 (7) complies with all federal, state, and local health and safety
19 laws and regulations.

20 (g) A restaurant operating as a bar or tavern shall not be eligible to
21 participate in the RMP.”

22 **Section 7. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
23 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
24 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
25 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
26 severable.

27 **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall be effective upon enactment.