

By Representative Lerner

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the food stamp program;
3 amending s. 414.31, F.S.; providing a
4 methodology for valuing vehicles as assets for
5 purposes of food stamp eligibility; providing
6 rulemaking authority; providing a deadline for
7 implementation; providing an effective date.

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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature intends to encourage the
10 residents of the state to be self-sufficient, and

11 WHEREAS, the Legislature further intends to provide
12 support for individuals and families who participate in the
13 labor force, and

14 WHEREAS, since the state is lacking any real statewide
15 public transportation, the value of a reliable vehicle is
16 recognized, and

17 WHEREAS, recent actions by the United States Congress
18 allow for a higher assets disregard on vehicle ownership in
19 the programs designed to support working families and
20 individuals--the food stamp, temporary assistance for needy
21 families, and Medicaid programs, and

22 WHEREAS, it is the intent of this legislation to bring
23 the state's vehicle allowance for the food stamp program to
24 the same level as any program providing assistance under the
25 state program funded under part A of Title IV of the Social
26 Security Act, NOW, THEREFORE,

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28 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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30 Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 414.31,
31 Florida Statutes, to read:

1 414.31 State agency for administering federal food
2 stamp program.--
3 (3) The state elects, within the provisions of Pub. L.
4 No. 106-387, to adopt more liberal methodologies for valuing
5 vehicles as assets for purposes of food stamp eligibility than
6 the regular food stamp rules allow. The department is directed
7 to exclude from consideration as an asset the value of the
8 vehicles of food stamp applicants and recipients to the same
9 extent that vehicles' values are financially excluded as
10 assets under any program providing assistance under the state
11 program funded under part A of Title IV of the Social Security
12 Act. Additionally, the department shall apply the most
13 favorable rules of resource exclusion, and the most favorable
14 rules for treating nonprimary vehicles, from either the food
15 stamp program or any program providing assistance under the
16 state program funded under part A of Title IV of the Social
17 Security Act. The department is authorized to adopt rules to
18 implement this subsection, which rules shall be implemented no
19 later than January 1, 2002.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
21 law.

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24 HOUSE SUMMARY

25 Provides a methodology for valuing vehicles as assets for
26 purposes of food stamp eligibility that excludes certain
27 such vehicles from consideration. Directs the Department
28 of Children and Family Services to adopt and implement
29 rules by January 1, 2002.
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