

SB2762

SNAP SIMPLIFIED REPORTING

This bill would permit the Department of Human Services to return to simplified reporting for the SNAP program.

MYTH FACT

Moving to simplified reporting will allow SNAP fraud to go unchecked.

SNAP recipients who have significant increases in income would still be required to report these changes under simplified reporting. Every **SNAP** case would be recertified every 6 months, just like they are now.

MYTH FACT

Moving to simplified reporting will expand the welfare rolls in Mississippi.

Mississippians would still have to meet the same strict income and resource limits to qualify for **SNAP** benefits and their eligibility would still be re-checked every six months. Simplified reporting is the standard practice in 49 of the 50 states. The method of reporting has no effect on the qualification requirements.

MYTH FACT

MDHS can take other steps to force individuals to report changes in income and reduce the state's error rate that way.

The penalties that individuals face for failing to report changes are already severe. One way to comply with change reporting would be to recertify all **SNAP** cases every month which would likely require us to double our workforce. This is impractical without significant funding increases from the state.

MYTH FACT

The MDHS error rate is high because we are finding fraud.

The error rate is not high because we are finding fraud. The error rate is high because of the huge burden change reporting puts on both clients and the agency. Client mistakes are the driving force behind the high error rate. An increased error rate does not mean more fraud is being detected.