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## KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Bluegrass Bill

## Red | BG 3

## Referred to Committee: Senate 2

Authors: Eleana Kinney, Athena Hauber, Grace Jessie	Action on the Bill	Action on the Bill	
School: Ballard HS	House Senate		
City: Louisville	□ Passed □ Passe	_	

An act to expand welfare coverage with a new state benefits program.

## Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: Kentucky currently provides the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to around 650,000 Kentucky residents to help pay for their meals. However, there are currently no government benefit programs to aid in the cost of necessary personal hygiene items. This bill proposes that a new government program, the SNAP Supplement Program, be created to aid in the cost of these items.

Section 2: Personal care items included are as follows: Feminine Hygiene products (Tampons and Pads); Toilet Paper and Paper Towels; Dental Hygiene Products (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, and Floss); Diapers and Baby Wipes; other basic hygiene products (such as Deodorant)

Section 3: Recipients of the SNAP program will qualify for this Supplement Program. They will receive an amount each month equal to 1/5 of their monthly SNAP benefit to go towards these items. The average monthly amount received through SNAP is \$125, so most recipients would receive \$25 a month. The benefits will be loaded onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) each month.

Section 4: Defined, an EBT card is a debit card that allows state governments to provide and track benefits to authorized recipients.

Section 5: Kentucky allocates \$2.1 billion for SNAP each year. In order to cover all expenses of the Supplement Program, Kentucky would need to allocate \$1 billion dollars annually. In order to obtain these funds, sales tax would be raised from 6% to 8% to match the State of Indiana.

Section 6: The program will be run by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Section 7: This bill will go into effect one year after its passing.