

SNAP Provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014

IMPORTANT REMINDER

On February 7, 2014, Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014, P.L. 113-79, which reauthorizes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”). Under the new law, most SNAP authorized retailers must pay for their own Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) equipment*.

By now you’ve received information (by mail, telephone, and by email if we have your email address) from the Food and Nutrition Service and your State’s EBT contractor letting you know that retailers will no longer be offered free EBT equipment, supplies and related services to participate in SNAP.

As a reminder, **by September 21, 2014, SNAP-authorized retailers that are not in the “exceptions**” category must arrange for lease or purchase of EBT equipment and services to ensure continued participation in SNAP.** More information about these services and costs is available from your current point-of-sale provider. Additional point-of-sale options can be found here: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt>.

In addition, please remember that SNAP rules regarding minimum purchases and charging fees for SNAP purchase have not changed. **Stores may NOT require SNAP customers to make a minimum purchase or charge SNAP customers a fee for using their SNAP EBT benefits.** Failure to comply with these Federal regulations (7 CFR § 274.7) may result in the loss of your SNAP authorization/license.

*To read the full text of the Omnibus Farm Bill Implementation Memo, go to:
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/2014-farm-bill-implementation>

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** **EXCEPTIONS:** Eligible farmers’ markets, direct-marketing farmers, military commissaries, non-profit food buying cooperatives, group living arrangements, treatment centers, and prepared meal services (except restaurants participating in State-option restaurant programs) may continue to qualify for free EBT equipment and services.

If you have any questions, please contact the Food and Nutrition Service at RPMDHQ-WEB@fns.usda.gov.