

Memorandum

To: Senator Ann Cummings, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
From: Ken Schatz, DCF Commissioner
Re: SNAP Property Tax Calculations
Date: April 16, 2019

This memo serves to update the committee on the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Deputy Commissioner Sean Brown's testimony on April 2, 2019 with respect to H.514 and DCF's ability to implement a change in how property taxes are used in calculating the shelter deduction for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As Deputy Commissioner Brown testified, he met with staff from the Food Nutrition Services (FNS) Northeastern Regional Office (NERO) on March 11, 2019. Deputy Commissioner Brown discussed the proposed amendments to Chapter 154 of Title 32 with FNS NERO staff and asked whether these changes would allow DCF to use total or gross property taxes in calculating the SNAP shelter deduction. FNS NERO staff advised Deputy Commissioner Brown that they were skeptical that the language would achieve the intent, but they would review it. Just before Deputy Commissioner Brown testified, they communicated that after further review and analysis they concluded that the proposed change did not work. Per their operating guidelines, after reaching that conclusion they sent it to their central office in Washington DC for review and approval of their analysis.

As of the date of this letter, DCF has not heard anything from FNS NERO staff or the FNS National Office about this issue.

DCF will continue to use net property taxes in calculating the shelter deduction for SNAP recipients unless FNS authorizes DCF to use gross property taxes.

