

# An Act Improving Public Health through a Common Application for Core Food, Health and Safety-net Programs

Please Co-Sponsor Senator DiDomenico and Representative Livingstone's Bill to Close the SNAP Gap and Create a Common App!

Senate Docket #247, House Docket #655

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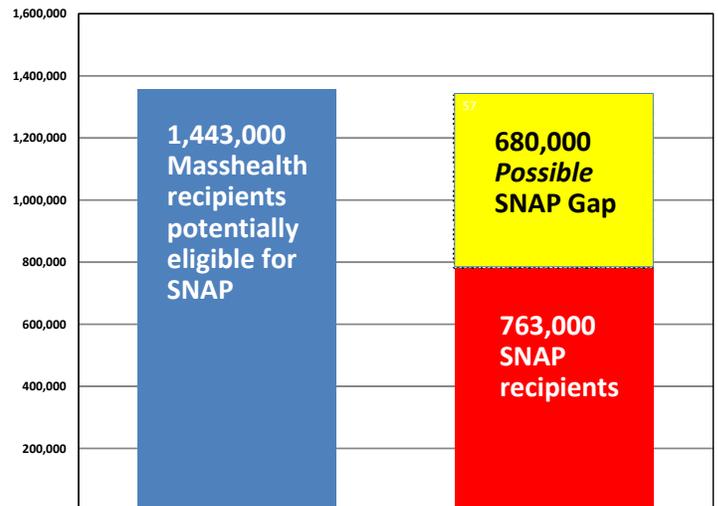
## The Problem:

- The SNAP gap refers to the 680,000 people who are receiving Mass Health and likely eligible for SNAP, but aren't receiving benefits.<sup>1</sup> (Check out local SNAP Gap Map by city and town: <http://tinyurl.com/j7kudz3>)
- MassHealth and SNAP, as well as many other safety-net programs, have separate application processes that ask for the same basic information, duplicating efforts and creating more work for both the state and clients.

## The Solution:

- Create a common application portal to let low income households apply for MassHealth and SNAP **at the same time**. This lays the foundation for a common application portal for safety-net benefits, reducing duplicate data collection, and increasing efficiency of state government.

## How big is the SNAP Gap?



## Benefits of closing the SNAP Gap and creating a Common Application Portal:

- Streamline and improve the efficiency of the application process for core food, health, housing and other safety-net programs for Massachusetts residents.
- Increase access to 100% federally-funded nutrition dollars for low income households.
- Help more low income residents meet their basic needs and lower healthcare costs.
- Boost automatic certification for children for free school meals.
- Generate \$1.5 billion in economic stimulus to the state and local economy.
- Increase food access for over 100,000 Massachusetts elders.

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<sup>1</sup> **Data:** September 2016: EOHHS reported 1.8 million Masshealth recipients under 200% FPL, November DTA data shows 763K SNAP recipients. MLRI determined 80% of the 1.8M MassHealth recipients "likely SNAP eligible," excluding long term care, ineligible students, 3 month time limit, immigrant ineligible.

