

House Bill 730 Risks Higher Costs and Errors in Idaho's SNAP Program

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What is House Bill 730?

House Bill 730 proposes major changes to how Idaho administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). While framed as an accountability and cost reduction measure to align Idaho's program with changes made by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), the bill goes beyond what federal SNAP requires by replacing existing administrative regulations with rigid state mandates.

If enacted, these mandates will increase administrative workload, create more complex case management, and raise the likelihood of administrative errors. In many cases, these unnecessary mandates could increase payment errors, increasing the states' payment error rate. Because SNAP error rates are directly tied to a new state cost-share model enacted by OBBBA, HB 730 would expose Idaho to significant new fiscal risk.

HB 730 Expands Cross-Agency Data Monitoring Beyond What Federal SNAP Regulations Require

Federal SNAP regulations already require verification through systems such as the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS),¹ the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements System (SAVE),² and the Prisoner Verification System (PVS).³ However, HB 730 significantly expands cross-agency data monitoring by requiring new routine monthly and quarterly data matches across multiple agencies; such as:

Monthly Reviews:

- Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics; Idaho Department of Correction; United States Department of Health and Human Services; United States Social Security Administration; United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the United States Postal Service.⁴

Quarterly Reviews

- Idaho Department of Labor and the Idaho State Tax Commission ⁵

State agencies are required to follow federal rules to determine eligibility and benefit levels. The state's payment error rate is based on its success in issuing the correct benefit amount to a household based on these federal rules, which include detailed requirements on what data sources can be ⁶ used to determine eligibility including income, household composition, and deductions. They also lay out the steps states must use when the state agency receives conflicting information, such as different amounts of earned income from different data matches. Out-of-date, inaccurate, or poor-quality data will lead to increased errors in determining household benefit levels.

While intended to increase data integrity, requirements to collect data from additional sources will increase complexity, administrative burden, and costs associated with the administration of the SNAP program. Data collected and shared across state and federal agencies are unlikely to match due to individual requirements related to data reporting timelines and requirements – adding additional complexity as more cases are wrongly flagged for review.

HB 730 Unnecessarily Shortens Eligibility Certification Periods

Under federal law, certification periods for SNAP households may happen every 12 months for most households and up to 24 months for elderly or disabled households.⁷ HB 730 significantly shortens eligibility certification periods to a 4-month maximum, with some households being required to recertify every 1 month.⁸

Each certification requires a full eligibility review and interview, and shorter cycles result in more frequent processing, more administrative burden, and increased opportunities for administrative error. Federal law is structured to balance oversight with efficiency, and imposing unnecessary rigid caps adds workload and fiscal strain without clear evidence of improved accuracy or reduced error rates.

House Bill 730 Increases Risk of Payment Error Rates

The SNAP Payment Error Rate measures the accuracy of state eligibility decisions and benefit calculations, and they both reflect under- and over-payments. Nationally, most errors are caused by the state agency, not households. Cases are randomly audited by both state and federal reviews through the SNAP Quality Control system. More complex processes – such as those created in HB 730 – create more opportunities for administrative error, even when households remain eligible. HB 730 increases the likelihood of payment errors by:

- Increasing the number of eligibility reviews
- Adding more verification and documentation requirements
- Creating new administrative steps in case processing

HB 730 Increases State Fiscal Risk Under Cost-Share Penalties Enacted in OBBBA

By increasing administrative complexity and review requirements, HB 730 will raise Idaho's error rate and expose the state to new federal costs. Under the OBBBA, states with SNAP payment error rates higher than 6%⁹ must begin covering a portion of food benefit costs – costs which have previously been funded entirely at the federal level. Idaho currently has a low error rate of 3.59%¹⁰ - indicating that Idaho's administrative review processes are already efficient and effective. We should seek to keep it low – because households deserve the benefits they are entitled to and the state can avoid a costly drain on the budget – with smart, targeted support for our state agency's demonstrated ability to accurately deliver benefits, not by adding unnecessary work to their plate.

References

1. Code of Federal Regulations. "7 C.F.R. § 273.2(f)(9) – Mandatory Use of IEVS." (2026).
2. Code of Federal Regulations. "7 C.F.R. § 273.2(f)(10) – Mandatory Use of SAVE and Alien Verification." (2026).
3. Code of Federal Regulations. "7 C.F.R. § 272.13 – Prisoner Verification." (2026).
4. H0730 – Twenty Eighth Legislature (2026): Amends and Adds to Existing Law to Establish Provisions Regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Integrity Measures and Verification." Idaho House Bill 730 (PDF), Pg. 1 Lines 27-41, Pg. 2 Lines 1-26
5. H0730 – Twenty Eighth Legislature (2026): Amends and Adds to Existing Law to Establish Provisions Regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Integrity Measures and Verification." Idaho House Bill 730 (PDF), Pg. 1 Lines 27-41, Pg. 2 Lines 1-26
6. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Quality Control System.
7. Code of Federal Regulations. "7 C.F.R. 273.10(f)(2) – Certification Period." (2026).
8. H0730 – Twenty Eighth Legislature (2026): Amends and Adds to Existing Law to Establish Provisions Regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Integrity Measures and Verification." Idaho House Bill 730 (PDF), Pg. 3 Lines 12-15
9. Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy. States Pay, Families Lose: Idaho Food Assistance Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). December 16, 2025.
10. Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy. States Pay, Families Lose: Idaho Food Assistance Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). December 16, 2025.