

# AFPC Policy Brief



## ANALYSIS OF SB 149/HB 196

[House Bill 196](#) was introduced on May 8, 2023 by Representative Mina, with co-sponsors Representatives Groh and Dibert signing on in May 2023, Reps. Story and Hannan on January 16, 2024, and Reps. Himschoot, Foster, Wright, Edgmon, McCormick, and Gray signed on between February 12-14, 2024. On February 26, Rep. Sumner also signed on as a co-sponsor. A Senate bill companion ([SB 149](#)) was introduced on May 13, 2023 by Senator Giessel, with co-sponsors Senators Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Olson, Tobin, Wielechowski, Kawasaki, Kiehl, and Claman signing on to the bill on February 13 & 14, 2024.

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### **AFPC supports this legislation.**

Ensuring food access to vulnerable Alaskans is a major component of a functional food system, and this legislation aligns with our organization's vision of a more resilient and food secure Alaska. AFPC strongly supports efforts to improve Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Alaska. These bills will direct the Department of Health to implement Broad Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP. BBCE is already in place in 42 states, and here it would do the following:

- Increase the SNAP eligibility gross income limit to 200% federal poverty level
- Eliminate the "asset test" for SNAP eligibility, allowing Alaskans to climb out of poverty
  - Asset test forms can take up to 90 minutes of Division of Public Assistance eligibility interviews
  - Working families need to have the ability to maintain modest savings and basic assets like vehicles for commuting to and from work. These are tools for helping people rise out of poverty, and Alaskans shouldn't face hunger as a result.

### **Find more resources on BBCE:**

[Food Bank of Alaska/Alaska Food Coalition Handout](#)

[November 2023 Letter of support from AFPC](#)

[ANTHC Letter of support](#)

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*Updated March 4, 2024*