

March 26, 2009

**S 964. DHHS TO MAXIMIZE FEDERAL PROGRAM BENEFITS.** Filed 3/25/09.  
*TO DIRECT THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF THE FEDERAL FOOD  
AND NUTRITION SERVICE PROGRAM AND THE FEDERAL FOOD STAMP  
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM.*

Directs the Division of Social Services (DSS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to adopt all optional provisions of The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Directs DSS to expand eligibility for the Food and Nutrition Service (F&NS) program by adopting categorical eligibility through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and raising the gross income limit to 165% of the federal poverty level. Directs DSS to develop a plan to increase outreach to eligible F&NS applicants and maximize available federal funds for outreach and to take all permissible steps to simplify administration of the F&NS program. Directs DHHS to develop a plan, in consultation with the Employment Security Commission and the Community College System, to maximize the benefits of the federal Food Stamp Employment and Training Program to assist as many food stamp recipients by improving the recipients' ability to obtain regular employment and reduce the recipients' dependence on public assistance. Specifies items that must be included in the plan and requires the plan to be submitted to the legislative Appropriations Subcommittees on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1, 2010. Effective July 1, 2009.

**Intro. by Nesbitt.**

UNCODIFIED