

HOUSE BILL 356

01, J1

6lr1417

By: Delegates Pendergrass, Atterbeary, Ebersole, Hammen, S. Howard, Jalisi, Jameson, Kipke, Kramer, Krebs, Lam, Luedtke, Malone, Patterson, Pena-Melnyk, Saab, Tarlau, Turner, West, ~~and K. Young~~ K. Young, Bromwell, Hill, McDonough, Miele, Morgan, Morhaim, and Sample-Hughes

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2016

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits – ~~Exclusion of~~**
3 **~~Sugar-Sweetened Beverages and Other Nonnutritious Foods~~ Grant Application**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Resources to ~~request permission~~
5 ~~from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude sugar-sweetened beverages and,~~
6 ~~at the Department's discretion, certain other foods from the food items that may be~~
7 ~~purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits~~ submit a grant
8 application to the United States Department of Agriculture to support a pilot project
9 that provides certain incentives and in response to a certain opportunity for funding;
10 requiring the Department of Human Resources to report to the Governor and the
11 General Assembly, ~~beginning on a certain date and at certain intervals~~ on or before
12 certain dates, on the status of the ~~request~~ grant application submission; providing
13 for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the use of Supplemental
14 Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

15 **Preamble**

16 ~~WHEREAS, Reducing consumption of calories from added sugars is a~~
17 ~~recommendation of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and an objective of the~~
18 ~~Healthy People 2020 initiative; and~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~WHEREAS, Sugar sweetened beverages are major sources of added sugars in the~~
2 ~~diets of U.S. residents; and~~

3 ~~WHEREAS, Daily consumption of sugar sweetened beverages is associated with~~
4 ~~obesity and other chronic health conditions, including Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular~~
5 ~~disease; and~~

6 ~~WHEREAS, Low income persons consume more sugar sweetened beverages in~~
7 ~~relation to their overall diet than those with higher incomes; and~~

8 ~~WHEREAS, More than one half (52%) of sugar drink kilocalories are consumed in~~
9 ~~the home and, of these sugar drink kilocalories, the vast majority (92%) are purchased in~~
10 ~~stores; and~~

11 ~~WHEREAS, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest~~
12 ~~nutrition assistance program in the country; and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, The goals of SNAP are to improve participants' food security and their~~
14 ~~access to a healthy diet; and~~

15 ~~WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2015, approximately 800,000 Maryland residents~~
16 ~~participated in SNAP each month, at a cost to taxpayers of about \$1.15 billion; now,~~
17 ~~therefore,~~

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
19 That:

20 ~~(a) On or before January 1, 2017, the Department of Human Resources shall~~
21 ~~request permission from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude sugar sweetened~~
22 ~~beverages and, at the discretion of the Department, other nonnutritious foods from the food~~
23 ~~items that are eligible to be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program~~
24 ~~benefits.~~

25 (a) The Department of Human Resources shall submit a grant application to the
26 United States Department of Agriculture under the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
27 program;

28 (1) to support a pilot project that provides incentives to directly and
29 efficiently increase the purchase and consumption of eligible fruits and vegetables by
30 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants; and

31 (2) in response to the next opportunity for available funding after July 1,
32 2016.

33 ~~(b) Beginning January 1, 2017, and every 6 months thereafter~~ On or before
34 January 1, 2017, and on or before January 1, 2018, the Department of Human Resources
35 shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with §

1 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the status of the ~~request~~
2 grant application submission.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 ~~October~~ July 1, 2016. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~4~~ 2 years and, at the end of
5 ~~September 30, 2020~~ June 30, 2018, with no further action required by the General
6 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.