

HOUSE BILL 101

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(PRE-FILED)

11r1014
CF 11r1596

By: **Delegate Charkoudian**

Requested: October 16, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Heat and Eat**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental
5 Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services; providing for
6 the purpose of the Heat and Eat Program; providing for the household eligibility
7 requirements for the Heat and Eat Program; requiring the Department to make a
8 certain determination for households to receive certain benefits; requiring the
9 Department to adopt certain regulations; defining a certain term; and generally
10 relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Heat and Eat
11 Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Human Services
14 Section 5–501(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Human Services
19 Section 5–506
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Human Services**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5-501.

2 (a) (1) The Department may implement a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
3 Program in accordance with the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

4 (2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall include:

5 (I) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5-505 of this
6 subtitle; AND

7 (II) **A HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-506**
8 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

9 **5-506.**

10 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE" MEANS A
11 MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENT TO A HOUSEHOLD THAT IS
12 AT LEAST \$21 PER YEAR.

13 (B) (1) THERE IS A HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM WITHIN THE
14 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

15 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM IS TO EXPAND
16 FOOD ACCESS TO HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE RECEIVING OR ELIGIBLE FOR
17 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS.

18 (C) (1) A HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEAT AND
19 EAT PROGRAM IF THE HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL
20 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.

21 (2) IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF A HOUSEHOLD TO RECEIVE
22 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS, THE DEPARTMENT
23 SHALL APPLY A STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE TO THE SHELTER DEDUCTION THAT
24 IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING COUNTABLE GROSS INCOME FOR
25 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.

26 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

27 (1) TO VERIFY HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
28 HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM; AND

29 (2) OTHERWISE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2021.