

HOUSE BILL 101

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(PRE-FILED)

1lr1014
CF SB 913

By: **Delegate Charkoudian**

Requested: October 16, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Heat and Eat**
3 **Program and Study on Maryland Energy Assistance Program Eligibility**

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; requiring the Department to conduct a
10 certain feasibility study for establishing automatic eligibility and approval for a
11 household to participate in the Maryland Energy Assistance Program under certain
12 circumstances; requiring the Department, in conducting the study, to conduct a
13 cost-benefit analysis; requiring the Department to submit a report of its findings
14 and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
15 certain date; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Supplemental
16 Nutrition Assistance Program ~~and~~, the Heat and Eat Program, and the Maryland
17 Energy Assistance Program.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Human Services
20 Section 5-501(a)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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 BY adding to
2 Article – Human Services
3 Section 5–506
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

8 **Article – Human Services**

9 5–501.

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

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

13 (I) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5–505 of this
14 subtitle; AND

15 (II) **A HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5–506**
16 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

17 **5–506.**

18 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE” MEANS A
19 MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENT TO A HOUSEHOLD THAT IS
20 AT LEAST \$21 PER YEAR.

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

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

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

29 (2) IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF A HOUSEHOLD TO RECEIVE
30 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS, THE DEPARTMENT
31 SHALL APPLY A STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE TO THE SHELTER DEDUCTION THAT

1 IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING COUNTABLE GROSS INCOME FOR
2 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.

3 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

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

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

8 (a) The Department of Human Services shall study and make recommendations
9 on the feasibility of establishing automatic eligibility and approval for a household to
10 participate in the Maryland Energy Assistance Program if the household is receiving or
11 eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits under State and
12 federal law.

13 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the
14 Department shall conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

15 (c) On or before December 31, 2021, the Department shall submit a report of its
16 findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
17 State Government Article, the General Assembly.

18 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 July 1, 2021.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.