

HOUSE BILL 677

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By: **Delegate Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2019

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Food Assistance Program – Continuity of Benefits**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Food Assistance Program in the Department of Human
4 Services; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the Program to provide
5 certain food assistance benefits for certain individuals for up to a certain amount of
6 time; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring that
7 funding used to support food assistance benefits under the Program shall be in
8 addition to certain funding; defining a certain term; and generally relating to food
9 assistance benefits.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

11 Article – Human Services
12 Section 5–501
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2007 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Human Services
17 Section 5–501.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2007 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Human Services**

23 5–501.

24 (a) The Department may implement a food stamp program in accordance with the
25 federal Food Stamp Act.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) The State shall bear the nonfederal portion of the administrative costs of the
2 food stamp program for each county.

3 (c) Each local department shall administer the food stamp program:

4 (1) under the supervision and control of the Department; and

5 (2) in accordance with the regulations of the Department and federal law.

6 (d) If a household includes an individual who is at least 62 years old and receives
7 a federally funded benefit in an amount less than \$30 per month under the food stamp
8 program, the State shall provide a supplement to increase the total benefit to \$30 per
9 month.

10 **5-501.1.**

11 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE FOOD ASSISTANCE
12 PROGRAM.

13 (B) THERE IS A FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

14 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF
15 FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS IN THE STATE.

16 (D) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE EQUIVALENT FOOD ASSISTANCE
17 BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO LOST ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED
18 BENEFITS AS A RESULT OF:

19 (1) THE TERMINATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE FEDERAL
20 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; OR

21 (2) CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
22 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE TERMINATION OR ALTERATION OF
23 FEDERAL PROVISIONS THAT:

24 (I) ALLOW THE STATE TO REQUEST A WAIVER OF THE
25 ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WORK REQUIREMENTS BASED ON THE
26 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OR INSUFFICIENT JOBS IN AN AREA OF THE STATE; OR

27 (II) EXEMPT CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE
28 ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WORK REQUIREMENTS.

1 **(E) AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS**
2 **UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE**
3 **TERMINATION OF FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFITS IF THE INDIVIDUAL CONTINUES TO**
4 **MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL**
5 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT WERE IN EFFECT ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.**

6 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**
7 **SECTION.**

8 **(G) FUNDING USED TO SUPPORT FOOD ASSISTANCE BENEFITS UNDER THE**
9 **PROGRAM SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY FUNDING APPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT**
10 **TO THE NONFEDERAL PORTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE FOOD**
11 **STAMP PROGRAM AND THE STATE SUPPLEMENT PROVIDED UNDER § 5-501 OF THIS**
12 **SUBTITLE.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2019.