

# HOUSE BILL 718

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By: **Delegates J. Long, Harris, Wells, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Seniors – Minimum Benefit**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State to provide a certain benefit under the Supplemental  
4 Nutrition Assistance Program to a household that includes an individual who is at  
5 least a certain age and has a gross annual household income that does not exceed a  
6 certain amount; and generally relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
7 Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Human Services  
10 Section 5–501  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Human Services**

16 5–501.

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

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

20 (i) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5–505 of this  
21 subtitle; and

22 (ii) a Heat and Eat Program in accordance with § 5–506 of this  
23 subtitle.

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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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for each county.

3 (c) Each local department shall administer the Supplemental Nutrition  
4 Assistance Program:

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

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

7 (d) (1) If a household includes an individual who is at least 62 years old and  
8 receives a federally funded benefit in an amount less than \$40 per month under the  
9 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the State shall provide a supplement to  
10 increase the total benefit to \$40 per month.

11 (2) **THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE A BENEFIT OF AT LEAST \$40 PER**  
12 **MONTH UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO A**  
13 **HOUSEHOLD THAT INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

14 (I) **IS AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD; AND**

15 (II) **HAS A GROSS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME THAT DOES NOT**  
16 **EXCEED \$50,000.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2024.