

# SENATE BILL 420

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CF HB 562

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By: **Senator Hettleman**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Temporary Cash Assistance – Housing Allowance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a local department of social services to provide a housing  
4 allowance to certain households receiving temporary cash assistance; requiring the  
5 continuation of a housing allowance for a certain time period under certain  
6 circumstances; and generally relating to temporary cash assistance.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Human Services

9 Section 5–314.1

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Human Services**

15 **5–314.1.**

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD” MEANS A HOUSEHOLD THAT:**

17 **(1) RECEIVES TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE OR TRANSITIONAL**  
18 **SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**

19 **(2) IS NOT RECEIVING A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL HOUSING**  
20 **SUBSIDY WHERE THE TENANT’S PORTION OF RENT IS BASED ON A PERCENTAGE OF**  
21 **THE TENANT’S INCOME.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE AN ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD WITH**  
2 **A HOUSING ALLOWANCE OF AT LEAST:**

3                   **(1) \$350 PER MONTH FOR A HOUSEHOLD OF ONE; AND**

4                   **(2) AN ADDITIONAL \$100 PER MONTH FOR EACH ADDITIONAL**  
5 **HOUSEHOLD MEMBER.**

6           **(C) A HOUSEHOLD SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR A**  
7 **FULL MONTH IF THE HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE FOR ANY PORTION OF THAT MONTH.**

8           **(D) (1) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL PAY THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE**  
9 **DIRECTLY TO THE HOUSEHOLD THROUGH THE SAME METHOD OF PAYMENT AS THE**  
10 **TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY THE HOUSEHOLD.**

11                   **(2) A HOUSING ALLOWANCE SHALL BE ISSUED AS A SEPARATE**  
12 **PAYMENT IN ADDITION TO THE TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE PAYMENT.**

13           **(E) IF A HOUSEHOLD THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY INELIGIBLE FOR A HOUSING**  
14 **ALLOWANCE REPORTS A CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD QUALIFY THE**  
15 **HOUSEHOLD FOR A HOUSING ALLOWANCE, A LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE THE**  
16 **HOUSING ALLOWANCE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE REPORTED CHANGE.**

17           **(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2023, EACH LOCAL DEPARTMENT**  
18 **SHALL SCREEN FOR HOUSING ALLOWANCE ELIGIBILITY ALL:**

19                   **(I) CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE**  
20 **OR TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES; AND**

21                   **(II) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RECEIVED TEMPORARY CASH**  
22 **ASSISTANCE IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 3 MONTHS.**

23                   **(2) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT SHALL SCREEN FOR HOUSING**  
24 **ALLOWANCE ELIGIBILITY ALL:**

25                   **(I) APPLICANTS FOR TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE; AND**

26                   **(II) RECIPIENTS OF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE AT**  
27 **REDETERMINATION.**

28           **(G) A HOUSING ALLOWANCE RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE**  
29 **DISREGARDED IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE TO**  
30 **BE RECEIVED BY A HOUSEHOLD.**

1           **(H) THE SECRETARY MAY NOT REDUCE OR TERMINATE A HOUSING**  
2 **ALLOWANCE FOR A HOUSEHOLD’S NONCOMPLIANCE WITH A FIP REQUIREMENT.**

3           **(I) FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, A**  
4 **HOUSING ALLOWANCE SHALL CONTINUE FOR AN ADDITIONAL 6 MONTHS IF THE**  
5 **HOUSEHOLD IS RECEIVING OR IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**  
6 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS.**

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2023.