

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 49

(Chair, Finance Committee)(By Request - Departmental -
Human Services)

Finance

Appropriations

Department of Human Services - Food Supplement Program - Renaming

This departmental bill renames the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in the Department of Human Services (DHS) as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The name change aligns the State program's name with the federal program of the same name. The publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, is required to change cross-references and terminology throughout the code and to describe each change in an editor's note. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any minimal costs to DHS associated with the bill's changes can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: DHS has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small businesses (attached). The Department of Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: Federal SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, provides benefits solely for the purchase of food items to families and individuals who meet income and resource requirements. Benefits are 100% federally funded, while administrative costs are split equally between the State and federal government. Program rules and regulations are issued by the federal government.

Background: In 2008, the federal Food Stamp Program was renamed SNAP to fight the stigma associated with food stamps. States maintained flexibility to name their own programs. Maryland is 1 of 18 states that did not change the name of its program following the federal change. Thirty-three states renamed their food supplement programs, including the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Delaware's program is called the Food Supplement Program.

Federal SNAP offers technical assistance to states, including educational graphics, video files, and other relevant communication materials. Renaming FSP as SNAP will allow the State to use these and other federally provided materials.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Department of Agriculture; Department of Human Services; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 7, 2020
mr/jc Third Reader - January 17, 2020

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ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES

TITLE OF BILL: Human Services

BILL NUMBER: SB 49

PREPARED BY: Department of Human Services
(Dept./Agency)

PART A. ECONOMIC IMPACT RATING

This agency estimates that the proposed bill:

WILL HAVE MINIMAL OR NO ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESS

OR

WILL HAVE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MARYLAND
SMALL BUSINESSES

PART B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS