

# SENATE BILL 913

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CF HB 101

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By: **Senators McCray, Washington, and Lam**  
Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2021  
Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Services – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Heat and Eat**  
3 **Program**

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; defining a certain term; and generally  
10 relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Heat and Eat  
11 Program.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Human Services  
14 Section 5–501(a)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Human Services  
19 Section 5–506  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Human Services**

25 5–501.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (I) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5-505 of this  
5 subtitle; AND

6 (II) **A HEAT AND EAT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 5-506**  
7 **OF THIS SUBTITLE.**  
8 **5-506.**

9 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE" MEANS A  
10 MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PAYMENT TO A HOUSEHOLD THAT IS  
11 AT LEAST \$21 PER YEAR.

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

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

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

20 (2) IN DETERMINING THE ELIGIBILITY OF A HOUSEHOLD TO RECEIVE  
21 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS, THE DEPARTMENT  
22 SHALL APPLY A STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE TO THE SHELTER DEDUCTION THAT  
23 IS USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING COUNTABLE GROSS INCOME FOR  
24 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.

25 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS:

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

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

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
30 1, 2021.

