

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB718 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Seniors - Minimum Benefit
Appropriations Committee
February 20th, 2024**

Position: Favorable

Background: HB718 would require the State to provide a minimum monetary benefit to adults over 65 under a certain income threshold.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance strongly supports measures to increase food benefits funding for Marylanders. HB718 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Seniors - Minimum Benefit would establish a minimum \$40 monthly benefit through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for seniors aged 65 and older with an annual household income under \$50,000. Retirees often live on a fixed income and can be severely impacted by inflation and increased costs for housing and necessities like groceries. Extending SNAP benefits to all seniors would both guarantee that our elderly population has funds for food regardless of other costs of living and would directly inject money into the local economy. This would greatly benefit Maryland's communities, supporting local businesses and increasing quality of life for seniors.

We would strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB718. Thank you for your consideration.