## MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



## SB35 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement Appropriations Committee March 26, 2024

**Position: Favorable** 

**Background:** SB35 would increase the base benefit for all participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maryland.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports **SB35 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement** which, as amended, would increase the base benefit amount for elderly participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Though the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are behind us, many Marylanders are still experiencing a higher cost of living, including high housing and utility costs and increased prices for groceries and other material goods. Retirees in particular often live on a fixed income and can be severely impacted by inflation and increased costs for housing and other necessities. Increasing the base benefit amount for beneficiaries aged 60 and older both guarantee that vulnerable members of Maryland's elderly population have 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.

MRA would respectfully urge a favorable vote on SB35. Thank you for your consideration.

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