

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



SB35 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
January 17, 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 would increase the base benefit amount for all 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. The end of the P-EBT program at the federal level has also negatively impacted many shoppers who came to depend on the additional funds supplementing the existing base benefit amount of \$40. Increasing the base benefit amount to \$95 for all beneficiaries would positively impact the thousands of Marylanders who depend on SNAP funds.

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