



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: SB 35

TITLE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement
SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **Support**

DATE: January 17, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 35 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement. This legislation ensures that any person receiving federal SNAP benefits less than \$95 will receive additional benefits from the State. Furthermore, it eliminates the age qualification for the benefits provided by the State’s expansion of SNAP, and increases the threshold amount for federal benefits.

Low-income Maryland residents have seen their cost of living increase sharply due to the inflationary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The average cost of groceries in Maryland is over \$300 a month for one person. This legislation will help ease the burden of these high food prices on working families.

Ensuring that every child receives access to fresh, healthy foods is a priority for Baltimore County. SB 35 will further critical initiatives taken in the County, such as Summer SNAP for Children, to reduce food insecurity and increase access to healthy and fresh foods. Baltimore County appreciates the continued partnership between the State and the County in ensuring that our vulnerable populations have access to the food they need.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 35. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.