

## Chapter 426

**(House Bill 183)**

AN ACT concerning

**Human Services – Food Supplement Program and**  
~~**(Summer SNAP for Children Act)**~~ **Human Services Careers Scholarships –**  
**Alterations**

FOR the purpose of making technical and clarifying changes to the administration of certain food supplement benefits for children; ~~increasing the amount the Governor is required to include in the annual budget bill for certain food supplement benefits for children;~~ authorizing the Department of Human Services to use certain funding to provide certain matching funds to a county to supplement certain benefits and to offset certain administrative costs; altering certain eligibility criteria and certain requirements for the Pilot Program for Human Services Careers Scholarships; authorizing the Maryland Higher Education Commission to prorate scholarship repayment under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the food supplement program and scholarships for human services careers.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,Article – Human ServicesSection 2–303(a)(1) and (b)(1)Annotated Code of Maryland(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Human Services

Section 2–303(a)(6) and 5–501.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,Article – EducationSection 18–3901(d) and 18–3903(d)Annotated Code of Maryland(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,Article – EducationSection 18–3901(e) and 18–3902(c)Annotated Code of Maryland(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)BY adding toArticle – Education

Section 18–3903(e) and (f)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

**Article – Human Services**

2–303.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(6) (I) “Service obligation” means to work in a targeted position for a minimum [of 5 years] PERIOD OF TIME, AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, during the 8–year period immediately following [high school graduation] THE AWARDING OF A SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR HUMAN SERVICES CAREERS SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED UNDER § 18–3902 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(II) THE SERVICE OBLIGATION PERIOD SHALL BE 15 MONTHS FOR EACH ACADEMIC YEAR THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED, REGARDLESS OF THE CREDIT HOURS OR SEMESTERS COMPLETED BY THE RECIPIENT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

(b) (1) There is a Pilot Program for Human Services Careers.

5–501.1.

(a) In this section, “child” means an individual who is under the age of 19 years at any time during a calendar year.

(b) (1) Subject to subsections (e) and (f) of this section, if a household includes an individual who receives a federally funded benefit under the food supplement program, the State shall provide matching funds to a county to supplement benefits received under § 5–501 of this subtitle for each child in the household.

(2) For each child in the household, the combined State and county supplement under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall equal at least:

- (i) \$30 per month in the months of June, July, and August; and
- (ii) \$10 in the month of December.

(c) (1) A supplement provided under subsection [(b)] **(B)(2)(I)** of this section shall be added to the household food supplement program benefit account [15 days after the federally funded benefit is added to the account] in June, July, and August.

(2) A supplement provided under subsection [(b)] **(B)(2)(II)** of this section shall be added to the household food supplement program benefit account [7 days after the federally funded benefit is added to the account] in December.

(d) A household may not receive more than one supplement per child under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) (1) (i) To receive funding in the following fiscal year for the supplements under subsection (b) of this section, a county shall submit an application to the Department on or before [December 1] **THE DATE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

(ii) The application shall include the following information:

1. [a proposed plan to successfully implement distribution of supplements awarded to the county] **THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS TO BE SERVED;**

2. [a proposed plan to communicate the availability of food supplement program benefits and supplements to eligible families] **THE COUNTY’S COMMITMENT TO CONDUCTING AN EVALUATION TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM;**

~~3. the process by which the county will evaluate the impact of the supplements;~~

~~4. food supplement program eligibility and enrollment rates in the county;~~

~~5.~~~~4.~~ **3.** certification of the [maximum amount] **AVAILABILITY** of local share funds [available]; and

**[6.]** ~~5.~~ **4.** any other relevant information required by the Department.

(2) (i) On or before [January 15 each year] **THE DATE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT**, the Department shall notify each county that submitted a complete application of the amount of funding available in the next fiscal year for supplements under subsection (b) of this section.

(ii) Receipt of available funding under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph is contingent on approval by the Department of a county's final plan submitted in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(3) On or before [March 1 each year] **THE DATE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT**, a county that is notified of available funding shall submit a final plan to the Department that includes:

(i) a communication plan, COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT, to inform eligible families of the food supplement program and the supplements available under this section;

(ii) if funding is not sufficient to provide a minimum supplement of \$100 to all children in the county receiving food supplement program benefits in the fiscal year, a designation of which children will be eligible to receive the supplements under this section;

(iii) the criteria used to determine eligibility under item (ii) of this paragraph; and

(iv) an evaluation plan to measure:

1. the impact of the supplements on recipients;

2. food supplement program participation; and

3. any other relevant information required by the Department.

(4) (i) The Department shall review a final plan submitted under paragraph (3) of this subsection and approve or reject the final plan.

(ii) The Department shall notify a county of its decision under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph on or before April 1.

(iii) If the Department rejects a county's final plan, the county may submit a revised final plan for approval on or before April 15.

(iv) If the Department approves a county's final plan, the Department shall certify the amount of funding that will be provided for the county in the following fiscal year.

(5) Each county with an approved final plan shall be awarded funding in accordance with subsection (f) of this section.

(f) (1) The State and local shares of funding required for a county with an approved final plan shall be equal to the State and local share percentages established by the State and local cost-share formula for that county required under § 5-303(d)(3)(i) of the Education Article.

(2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in each fiscal year, the Department shall provide the State share of funds for each county with an approved final plan for the fiscal year in an amount equal to the product of:

1. the total amount of funds appropriated under subsection (g) of this section; and

2. the number of children in households that receive a federal benefit under the food supplement program in the county, divided by the total number of children in households that receive a federal benefit under the food supplement program in all counties with an approved final plan.

(ii) The amount of funds provided to a county under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph may not be greater than the State share amount that corresponds to the maximum available local share funds certified under subsection (e)(1)(ii)5 of this section.

(3) (i) A county may provide funding in addition to the funding required under paragraph (1) of this subsection to increase the number of supplements provided in the county.

(ii) Funding provided by a county under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph may not affect the amount of funding the Department is required to provide under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

~~(g) Each year, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least [\$200,000] \$5,000,000 for the supplements under subsection (b) of this section.~~

**(G) SUBJECT TO THE STATE BUDGET, THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE THE FUNDING THE STATE IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION TO:**

**(1) PROVIDE FUNDS TO A COUNTY TO SUPPLEMENT BENEFITS; AND**

**(2) OFFSET ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE FEDERAL SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER PROGRAM.**

### **Article – Education**

(d) “Scholarship” means the Pilot Program for Human Services Careers Scholarship established under this subtitle.

(e) (1) (I) “Service obligation” means to work in a targeted position for a minimum [of 5 years] PERIOD OF TIME, AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, during the 8–year period immediately following [high school graduation] THE AWARDING OF A SCHOLARSHIP.

(II) THE SERVICE OBLIGATION PERIOD SHALL BE 15 MONTHS FOR EACH ACADEMIC YEAR THAT THE SCHOLARSHIP IS AWARDED, REGARDLESS OF THE CREDIT HOURS OR SEMESTERS COMPLETED BY THE RECIPIENT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.

(2) “Service obligation” includes work in a targeted position while a student is attending an eligible institution.

18–3902.

(c) A Scholarship recipient shall:

(1) Be a Maryland resident or a graduate of a Maryland high school;

(2) Be accepted for admission or currently enrolled at an eligible institution in a program that will enable the recipient to obtain a credential or degree that is necessary to work in or further a career in a targeted position in the Department of Human Services;

(3) [Sign a letter of intent to perform the service obligation on completion of the recipient’s required studies] ENTER INTO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION, IN THE FORM AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE OFFICE, TO MEET THE CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

(4) Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent; and

(5) Satisfy any additional criteria established by the Office or the Department of Human Services.

18–3903.

(d) A Scholarship recipient shall repay the Office the funds received under this subtitle as set forth in § 18–112 of this title if the recipient does not:

(1) Satisfy the degree requirements of the eligible course of study or program or fulfill other requirements as provided in this subtitle; or

(2) Perform the service obligation after graduation.

**(E) THE AMOUNT TO BE REPAID FOR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE SERVICE OBLIGATION SHALL BE:**

**(1) EQUAL TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS RECEIVED; OR**

**(2) AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.**

**(F) (1) THE SCHOLARSHIP IS NONREFUNDABLE.**

**(2) THE AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP SHALL BE REDUCED IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES EXCEED TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**