

SENATE BILL 921

O1, F2

2lr3009
CF HB 1027

By: **Senator Elfreth**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility**
3 **(SNAP for Students)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Services to provide food
5 supplement benefits to certain students enrolled in an institution of higher education
6 who meet a certain eligible income threshold; and generally relating to food
7 supplement benefits for students.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Human Services
10 Section 5–502
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Human Services
15 Section 5–503.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Human Services**

21 5–502.

22 Except as provided in [**§ 5–503**] **§§ 5–503 AND 5–503.1** of this subtitle, if any
23 provision of this subtitle conflicts with any federal law, the federal law shall prevail.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **5-503.1.**

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELIGIBLE INCOME THRESHOLD” MEANS, BASED ON
3 THE INCOME OF A STUDENT OR THE STUDENT’S FAMILY:

4 (1) A STUDENT’S EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION IS \$0 ON THE
5 MOST RECENT FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID; OR

6 (2) A STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A STATE OR
7 FEDERALLY FINANCED WORK STUDY PROGRAM.

8 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE FOOD SUPPLEMENT BENEFITS TO A
9 STUDENT WHO:

10 (1) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

11 (2) IS ENROLLED IN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR AT
12 LEAST 15 CREDIT HOURS PER YEAR; AND

13 (3) MEETS THE ELIGIBLE INCOME THRESHOLD.

14 (C) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
15 GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION IN
16 AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO REIMBURSE THE DEPARTMENT FOR EXPENDITURES
17 MADE UNDER THIS SECTION IN THE SECOND PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) Subject to the provisions of this section, Section 1 of this Act shall take effect
20 contingent on the expiration of the expanded student eligibility for benefits under the
21 federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, as modified by the Consolidated
22 Appropriations Act, 2021.

23 (b) If the expanded student eligibility expires due to the end of the COVID-19
24 public health emergency and no substantially similar federal legislation is enacted in its
25 place, Section 1 of this Act shall take effect within 30 days after the expiration.

26 (c) The Department of Human Services shall notify the Department of Legislative
27 Services within 5 days after the expiration of expanded student eligibility benefits.

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of
29 Section 2 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2022.