

Chapter 373

(House Bill 881)

AN ACT concerning

**Family Investment Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Benefits – Child Support**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ phasing in a requirement that all child support received in a month pass through to a family seeking assistance under the Family Investment Program and prohibiting the consideration of child support in computing the amount of assistance received; ~~prohibiting a local department of social services from considering any child support collected when computing the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to provide;~~ and generally relating to the Family Investment Program and ~~the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program~~ child support.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Human Services
 Section 5–310(a) ~~and 5–501~~
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Human Services
Section 5–501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Human Services

5–310.

(a) (1) For a recipient that is an assistance unit that includes adults and children or minor parents and children, the amount of assistance shall be designated as follows:

- (i) 75% for the child or children in the assistance unit; and
- (ii) 25% for the adult member or members, or minor parent or parents of the assistance unit.

(2) For a recipient that is an assistance unit that includes only adults or a recipient who is a pregnant individual, 100% of the amount of assistance shall be designated for the adult member or members or the pregnant individual.

(3) For applicants to the FIP, the amount of assistance shall be computed by counting no more than 4 weeks of earned income in any month and disregarding 20% of that earned income.

(4) **(I) ~~The~~ THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2027, THE** first \$100 of ~~ANY~~ child support collected in a month ~~for one child and the first \$200 of child support collected in a month for two or more children~~ shall pass through to the family and shall be disregarded in computing the amount of assistance.

(II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028, THE GREATER OF \$100 OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR ONE CHILD AND \$200 OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR TWO OR MORE CHILDREN OR 25% OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH SHALL PASS THROUGH TO THE FAMILY AND SHALL BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

(III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2029, THE GREATER OF \$100 OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR ONE CHILD AND \$200 OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR TWO OR MORE CHILDREN OR 50% OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH SHALL PASS THROUGH TO THE FAMILY AND SHALL BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

(IV) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2030, THE GREATER OF \$100 OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR ONE CHILD AND \$200 OF CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH FOR TWO OR MORE CHILDREN OR 75% OF ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH SHALL PASS THROUGH TO THE FAMILY AND SHALL BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

(V) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2031 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED IN A MONTH SHALL PASS THROUGH TO THE FAMILY AND SHALL BE DISREGARDED IN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.

(5) For eligible recipients who obtain unsubsidized employment, the amount of assistance shall be computed by counting no more than 4 weeks of earned income in any month and disregarding 35% of that earned income.

5-501.

(a) (1) The Department may implement a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in accordance with the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

- (2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall include:
- (i) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5–505 of this subtitle; and
 - (ii) a Heat and Eat Program in accordance with § 5–506 of this subtitle.

(b) The State shall bear the nonfederal portion of the administrative costs of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for each county.

(c) Each local department shall administer the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

- (1) under the supervision and control of the Department; and
- (2) in accordance with the regulations of the Department and federal law.

(d) If a household includes an individual who is at least 60 years old and receives a federally funded benefit in an amount less than \$50 per month under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the State shall provide a supplement to increase the total benefit to \$50 per month.

~~(E) A LOCAL DEPARTMENT MAY NOT CONSIDER ANY CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTED BY A HOUSEHOLD WHEN COMPUTING THE AMOUNT OF SUPPLEMENTAL BENEFITS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION OR § 5-501.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.