

# HOUSE BILL 1318

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6lr3048

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By: **Delegates Wivell, Arentz, Beauchamp, Buckel, Hornberger, Howard, Hutchinson, McComas, Miller, T. Morgan, Reilly, Schmidt, and Tomlinson**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026  
Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Human Services – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program –**  
3 **Error Reduction**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Human Services to develop a certain  
5 process to address Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program administrative  
6 errors; and generally relating to the administration of the Supplemental Nutrition  
7 Assistance Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Human Services  
10 Section 5–501  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Human Services**

16 5–501.

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

19 (2) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program shall include:

20 (i) a Restaurant Meals Program in accordance with § 5–505 of this  
21 subtitle; and

22 (ii) a Heat and Eat Program in accordance with § 5–506 of this

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 subtitle.

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

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

6 (1) under the supervision and control of the Department; and

7 (2) in accordance with the regulations of the Department and federal law.

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

12 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

13 **(1) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE PROCESS TO:**

14 **(I) SYSTEMATICALLY ANALYZE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**  
15 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS;**

16 **(II) FORMULATE STRATEGIES, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS IN**  
17 **THE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS, TO REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS;**  
18 **AND**

19 **(III) MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIES**  
20 **DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

21 **(2) WORK TOWARD ACHIEVING ERROR RATES EQUAL TO THE LEVEL**  
22 **ACHIEVED BY THE BEST PERFORMING STATE IN THE UNITED STATES, AS**  
23 **DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2026.