

HOUSE BILL 1458

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By: **Delegates Shetty, D. Jones, Acevero, Bagnall, Charkoudian, Cullison, Hill, Kaufman, Lehman, Lewis, McCaskill, Palakovich Carr, Rosenberg, Ruff, Smith, Solomon, Taveras, Williams, and Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees –**
3 **Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for
5 Refugees and Asylees; requiring the Department of Human Services to administer
6 the Program; establishing that certain individuals are eligible to receive a certain
7 benefit under the Program; and generally relating to the State Supplemental
8 Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Human Services
11 Section 5–507
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Human Services**

17 **5–507.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE STATE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
21 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLEES.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) “REFUGEE” MEANS:**

2 **(I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A UNITED STATES CITIZEN;**

3 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR**
4 **60 MONTHS OR LESS; AND**

5 **(III) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

6 **1. A REFUGEE ADMITTED UNDER 8 U.S.C. § 1157;**

7 **2. AN ASYLEE ADMITTED UNDER 8 U.S.C. § 1158;**

8 **3. A CUBAN OR HAITIAN ENTRANT AS DEFINED IN 45**
9 **C.F.R. § 401.2;**

10 **4. AN INDIVIDUAL GRANTED WITHHOLDING OF**
11 **REMOVAL UNDER 8 U.S.C. § 1231(B)(3) OR PROTECTION UNDER THE CONVENTION**
12 **AGAINST TORTURE;**

13 **5. A PAROLEE WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY FEDERAL**
14 **LAW AS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES, INCLUDING:**

15 **A. AFGHAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES ADMITTED**
16 **UNDER THE AFGHANISTAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2022 AND**
17 **RELATED STATUTES;**

18 **B. UKRAINIAN HUMANITARIAN PAROLEES ADMITTED**
19 **UNDER THE UKRAINE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2022;**

20 **C. LAUTENBERG PAROLEES; AND**

21 **D. ANY OTHER PAROLEE CATEGORY THAT CONGRESS OR**
22 **THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DESIGNATES AS ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE**
23 **BENEFITS;**

24 **6. AN AMERASIAN IMMIGRANT LAWFULLY ADMITTED TO**
25 **THE UNITED STATES WHO IS DESCRIBED IN 8 U.S.C. § 1612(A)(2)(A)(v);**

26 **7. A VICTIM OF A SEVERE FORM OF TRAFFICKING IN**
27 **PERSONS AND THE VICTIM’S FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS**
28 **AND SERVICES FROM FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS UNDER 22 U.S.C. §**
29 **7105(B)(1)(A);**

1 **8. AN IRAQI OR AFGHAN NATIONAL GRANTED SPECIAL**
2 **IMMIGRANT STATUS, INCLUDING:**

3 **A. AN IRAQI GRANTED A SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA**
4 **UNDER SECTION 1059 OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR**
5 **FISCAL YEAR 2006;**

6 **B. AN AFGHAN GRANTED A SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA**
7 **UNDER SECTION 602(B) OF THE AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT OF 2009; AND**

8 **C. SPOUSES AND CHILDREN GRANTED DERIVATIVE**
9 **SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS; AND**

10 **9. ANY OTHER NONCITIZEN POPULATION THAT THE**
11 **OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DETERMINES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR REFUGEE**
12 **RESETTLEMENT SERVICES UNDER THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980.**

13 **(4) “SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM” MEANS**
14 **THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN**
15 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 5–501 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

16 **(B) (1) THERE IS A STATE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
17 **PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLEES.**

18 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

19 **(3) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO EXPAND FOOD ACCESS TO**
20 **HOUSEHOLDS UNDER THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL**
21 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS IN EFFECT ON JULY 3, 2025.**

22 **(C) A HOUSEHOLD IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM IF THE**
23 **HOUSEHOLD INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:**

24 **(1) WAS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
25 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW ON JULY 3,**
26 **2025;**

27 **(2) IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
28 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS AFTER JULY 3, 2025; AND**

29 **(3) IS:**

1 **(I) A REFUGEE;**

2 **(II) A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT WHO SATISFIED THE**
3 **RESIDENT REQUIREMENTS IN EFFECT ON JULY 3, 2025;**

4 **(III) A NONCITIZEN LAWFULLY PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES**
5 **PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
6 **PROGRAM UNDER THE “QUALIFIED ALIEN” FRAMEWORK UNDER THE PERSONAL**
7 **RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996;**

8 **(IV) A PAROLEE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
9 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ON JULY 3, 2025, INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL PAROLED**
10 **INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECTION 212(D)(5) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND**
11 **NATIONALITY ACT WHO MET THE RESIDENCY OR EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS IN**
12 **EFFECT ON JULY 3, 2025;**

13 **(V) A NONCITIZEN WITH WORK AUTHORIZATION WHO MET THE**
14 **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA IN EFFECT ON JULY 3, 2025;**

15 **(VI) A NONCITIZEN ELIGIBLE UNDER MILITARY–RELATED OR**
16 **DISABILITY–RELATED EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND**
17 **WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 ON JULY 3, 2025; OR**

18 **(VII) A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER NONCITIZEN POPULATION**
19 **ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS**
20 **UNDER FEDERAL LAW ON JULY 3, 2025.**

21 **(D) A HOUSEHOLD THAT INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED UNDER**
22 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A BENEFIT UNDER THE**
23 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER ELIGIBILITY**
24 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM IN EFFECT ON JULY 3, 2025.**

25 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO:**

26 **(1) VERIFY HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE**
27 **PROGRAM; AND**

28 **(2) CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2026.