

DATE: March 10, 2022

BILL NUMBER: HB 1027

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

BILL TITLE: Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility (SNAP for Students)

DHS POSITION: Letter of Information

The Department of Human Services (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information regarding House Bill 1027 (HB 1027). HB 1027 requires the Family Investment Administration (FIA) to provide food supplement benefits to students enrolled in an institution of higher education and who meet the eligible income threshold.

HB 1027 defines the eligible income threshold as a student whose expected family contribution is \$0 on their most recent Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or student who is eligible for participation in a state or federally funded work study program. The student must also reside in the state or Maryland and be enrolled in at least 15 credit hours per year at their institution of higher education.

Currently, students are required to meet one of the exemptions outlined in 7 CFR 273.5(b) to be determined eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits. Students who fail to meet the exemptions are not eligible for SNAP benefits. If the legislation is enacted, the Department will be required to fund 100% of non-exempt SNAP students with state funds.

The Department estimates that implementation of this bill will provide benefits to approximately 9,000 participants at a monthly grant average of \$215 for a total annual benefit of \$23.2 million dollars allocated from the state's general fund. The legislation would require 18 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, creating a fiscal impact of \$1.3 million, of which 50% general funds and 50% federal funds. The total fiscal impact is approximately \$24.5 million for Fiscal Year 2022 and every year thereafter.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share the aforementioned information regarding HB 1027 and requests this information be taken into account during the Committee's deliberations.

