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BILL NO.: **House Bill 1027**

TITLE: **Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility (SNAP for Students)**

SPONSOR: **Delegate Solomon**

COMMITTEE: **Appropriations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 10, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1027 – Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility (SNAP for Students). This legislation would provide food supplement benefits to eligible students enrolled in institutions of higher education.

Food insecurity has borne significant impacts on communities across the State. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Baltimore County significantly ramped up food distribution, targeting communities located in areas of food insecurity and those that had incurred substantial job losses. As Maryland moves forward, it is critical to continue to make services available to communities in need. Students at higher education institutions are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. Many find it difficult to find gainful employment while supporting a full school schedule, and require enhanced assistance from the State to cover the full cost of basic essentials.

Currently, Maryland offers students in primary and secondary education food supplement benefits. House Bill 1027 expands access to food supplement benefits to students in higher education institutions who meet an eligible income threshold. This legislation sends a message to all students that leaders throughout the state understand that they are struggling and are prepared to provide the support they need.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1027. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.