

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



## **HB456: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program- State Supplement House Appropriations Committee February 8, 2022**

**Position:** Favorable

**Background:** HB456 amends the existing state program to raise the SNAP minimum payment for older adults from \$30 to \$45 a month and to lower the eligibility age to receive this boost from 62 to 60.

**Comments:** On behalf of the Maryland Food Industry Council, a committee of the Maryland Retailers Association representing the majority of chain and independent food retailers, as well as suppliers, distributors and specialty food companies in our State, we urge the committee's support. Not only do SNAP increases help to reduce poverty, alleviate hunger and improve well-being, they positively influence the economy. Increasing SNAP benefits also provides an economic stimulus. Every \$1 invested in SNAP generates [up to \\$1.80 of economic activity](#).

In a 2020 study done by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, they found that SNAP benefits are one of the fastest, most effective forms of economic stimulus because the money is quickly injected back into the economy. They found that every SNAP dollar a low-income family receives enables the family to spend an additional dollar on food, shelter or transportation. Further proof of this immediate spend is found in the data. 80 percent of SNAP benefits are redeemed within two weeks of receipt and 97 percent are spent within a one month period of time. Both the Congressional Budget Office and Moody's Analytics rate SNAP expenditures as one of the most effective and efficient supports for the economy.

With these comments in mind, we urge a favorable report.