

**Date:** January 24, 2023

**Bill number:** HB0087

**Committee:** House Appropriations Committee

**Bill title:** **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs - Waiver - Diapers and Menstrual Hygiene Products**

**DHS Position:** **FAVORABLE**

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The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide written support for House Bill 87 (HB 87).

House Bill 87 would require DHS to apply for a waiver to allow benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to be used to purchase diapers or menstrual hygiene products should such a waiver be made available by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

DHS estimates that more than 45,000 Maryland SNAP recipients would be eligible to make use of such an expansion of the usage of their SNAP benefits. This expansion would widen the benefits support to include essential items for eligible infants and women.

The Department would like to note for the Committee that at this time such use of SNAP funds is not permitted under 7 C.F.R § 271.2 (2023). Should changes to federal law be made and a waiver or other regulations surrounding the usage of SNAP funds make clear to DHS that Maryland recipients of SNAP could purchase diapers and/or menstrual hygiene products with their SNAP benefits, the Department would apply for the waiver and adopt any necessary state regulations for implementation.

The Department is grateful to offer our support for HB 87 and requests a favorable report.

