

Written FAVORABLE MDOA SB 445 CSFP Shift - 2.13.25

Uploaded by: Jennifer Crawley

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 17, 2025

Bill Number: SB445

Bill Title: Department of Human Services - Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program - Administration

Committee: Senate Finance

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE

The Department of Aging (MDOA) submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill (SB) 445 - Department of Human Services - Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program - Administration.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population.

SB445 represents a collaborative agreement between MDOA and the Department of Human Services to transfer complete responsibility for administering the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) program that is funded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, from MDOA to DHS. This federal program funds the purchase and distribution of "commodity" boxes with boxed and canned food goods for low-income families and older adults aged 60 and older.

For the past several years MDOA has been responsible for receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodities Supplemental Food Program. However, MDOA is currently the only state unit on aging that serves as the manager and coordinating entity for this program. Most other states utilize different state agencies to administer this program, typically the state agency that runs other U.S. Department of Agriculture food programs. MDOA has



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experienced significant fiscal and operational challenges in administering this program in recent years.

DHS capably administers several individual, income-based benefits and is simply a better equipped agency to take over this important program for older Marylanders. Specifically, DHS administers other U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition services, like SNAP benefits. DHS reports it will be able to oversee the CSFP program into their Emergency Food Assistance Program.

For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable report for Senate Bill 445. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging

SB0445_DHS_FAV

Uploaded by: Rachel Sledge

Position: FAV



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON SB0445 - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - FEDERAL
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM - ADMINISTRATION - POSITION:
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Beidle and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on Senate Bill 445 (SB 445).

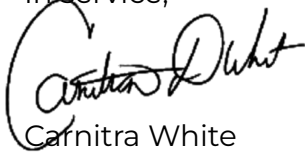
With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. SB 445 transfers the administration of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) from the Maryland Department of Aging to DHS.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is a federal health and nutrition program for low-income families and individuals age 60 and older. The program helps alleviate food insecurity, ensuring individuals and families can access balanced meals and necessary nutrients. Through the program, eligible participants receive a monthly package of nutritious foods, including grains, fruits, vegetables, protein, and dairy products. The supplemental program enables families to stretch limited budgets and direct their financial resources towards other essential needs such as housing, healthcare, and education. The focus of CSFP to improve food security and access to better nutrition for Marylanders aligns with our existing efforts combating food insecurity and expands the various food assistance programs managed by our Family Investment Administration (FIA).

We currently administer the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) by contracting with the Maryland Food Bank and the Capital Area Food Bank to receive and store food available from the United States Department of Agriculture. Food is distributed among eligible soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters in all 24 jurisdictions. We are able to closely align the administration of CSFP and TEFAP as both programs serve low-income Marylanders. Five sub-grantees in local jurisdictions are actively delivering services and will continue in the same capacity when CSFP administration is transferred to us. We are able to administer and oversee the CSFP program without additional infrastructure because the CSFP program can be implemented by established and experienced staff implementing TEFAP.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carnitra White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Carnitra White
Principal Deputy Secretary

SB 445 Department of Human Services – Federal Comm

Uploaded by: tamika winkler

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 445

Bill Title: Department of Human Services – Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program – Administration

Committee: Finance

Hearing Date: February 19th 2025

Dear Finance Committee Chair Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice Chair Senator Antonio Hayes, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I stand before you in strong support of Senate Bill 445, a bill that will improve how Maryland runs the Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). This bill will place the Family Investment Administration (FIA) in charge of coordinating and managing the program, making the process more efficient and streamlined for those who rely on it.

Currently, the Secretary of Aging oversees CSFP, but this bill would shift that responsibility to the FIA, which already manages several vital assistance programs. By doing this, we make sure that the program runs smoothly and that every resource and dollar is used to benefit those who need it most. This change means better coordination, faster access, and a more effective system to help Maryland families who face food insecurity.

Senate Bill 445 makes sure that the resources we receive from the federal government under 7 C.F.R. 247 are handled by the central agency that already manages many public assistance programs. This will create a more unified approach to helping those in need.

I ask for your support of this bill, as it will make our state's food assistance system more efficient and effective. With this change, we continue to strengthen our commitment to Maryland's most vulnerable families.

Continued Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
45th District