



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 1458

DATE: March 19, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegates Shetty, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Appropriations

CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey

(leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees - Establishment

House Bill 1458 creates a State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services to provide benefits to expand food access for refugees and asylees residing in Maryland. The bill defines refugees and asylees and stipulates that a household is eligible to participate in the Program if an individual in the household was eligible to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits under State and federal law on July 3, 2025 and is not eligible to receive SNAP benefits after July 3, 2025 and the individual meets the definition of a refugee or non-citizen of the United States as defined in the bill.

A legislative priority of Montgomery County for the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Session¹ is to support legislation that mitigates the impact of federal actions on SNAP by making State investments in food assistance. House Bill 1458 does precisely this by directly addressing federal actions that went into effect on July 4, 2025, with the signing of H.R. 1 (2025), which rescinded SNAP eligibility for most immigrant families unless they are lawful permanent residents or belong to a very limited group of exceptions².

Providing New American households in Maryland with food assistance benefits to purchase the food they want from the local grocer they prefer is the most dignified, equitable, and efficient way to support them and lessen the impact of the draconian federal SNAP policy changes that have taken place in the past year. Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1458.

¹ https://montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR/Resources/Files/2026/state-priority_2026.pdf

²² [Sec. 10108 of H.R. 1](#): "This section eliminates SNAP eligibility for certain individuals who are classified as an alien under federal law and legally present in the United States, including those who have qualified for conditional entry under the asylum and refugee laws or based on urgent humanitarian reasons (e.g., a survivor of domestic violence or human trafficking)."