

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees
- Establishment
Appropriations Committee
March 19, 2026**

Position: Favorable

Background: HB1458 would establish a State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for refugees and asylees residing in Maryland.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) supports HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees – Establishment which would establish a State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for refugees and asylees who reside in Maryland. Residents who fall into these categories were previously eligible to receive federal SNAP dollars but these benefits were cut when eligibility for SNAP was narrowed in 2025 due to federal legislation.

SNAP benefits are extremely meaningful to many households and help to ensure that all residents of the state have access to groceries regardless of their economic status. As the cost of goods continues to increase due to a variety of factors, programs like SNAP become even more necessary. The eligibility changes implemented by the “One Big Beautiful Bill” stripped these benefits from thousands of lawful residents living in Maryland, negatively impacting their ability to feed their families and become thriving members of our community. The program proposed by HB1458 would reinstate these life-saving dollars and support the health of vulnerable populations of asylees and refugees who have sought safety in our state.

For these reasons, MRA would urge a favorable report on HB1458. Thank you for your consideration.