



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary

March 4, 2026

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1246 - MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -
EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITY DATABASE - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Valderrama and Members of the Economic Matter Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1246 (HB 1246).

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. Our Family Investment Administration (FIA) administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and makes eligibility determinations for Maryland's Medical Assistance Program. Both programs are affected by HB 1246.

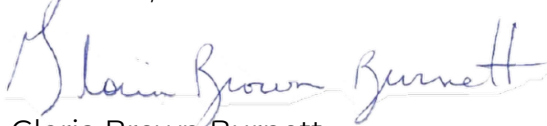
This bill would require the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to establish and make available online an employment training and opportunity database. The purpose of the database would be to assist individuals in finding employment training and other opportunities that may enable the individuals to become eligible and maintain eligibility for SNAP and Medical Assistance. Developing and maintaining the database would require coordination with the Maryland Departments of Labor, Service and Civic Innovation, and Human Services. MDH would also be tasked with assisting individuals in enrolling in programs listed in the database. Additionally, HB 1246 would require DHS to establish a process through which a person may recommend a vocational, workforce training, or job placement program for inclusion in the database. DHS would then forward recommendations to MDH.

DHS supports the goal of this legislation. HB 1246 would positively impact Marylanders by providing a tool through which individuals receiving SNAP or Medical Assistance who are newly-subject to work requirements can identify valuable employment and training opportunities. Under H.R. 1 (2025), with certain exceptions, SNAP eligibility is contingent upon able-bodied adults aged 16-60 registering for work, accepting an offer of suitable work, and taking part in an employment and training program when referred to one by a local department of social services. (Note: Individuals aged 16-18 who are in school are not required to register for work.) Beginning January 2027, individuals aged 19-64 must complete 80 hours each month of approved activities, including working or volunteering, to maintain eligibility for Medical Assistance, with certain exceptions. The employment and training database proposed by HB 1246 would aid SNAP and Medical Assistance recipients in complying with requirements under H.R. 1, and avoid losing eligibility for critical benefits.

Existing efforts to provide SNAP recipients with access to employment and training opportunities enable the Department to efficiently collaborate with MDH for establishing and maintaining the employment and training database. The [SNAP Employment and Training](#) webpage is a customer resource that provides information about SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) providers. The primary goal of the SNAP E&T program is to connect people who receive monthly food supplement benefits to job-driven training programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide a favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gloria Brown Burnett
Interim Secretary