

**SB 772 – Maryland Department of Health – Employment Training and Opportunity  
Database**

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On March 5, 2026

Before the Senate Finance Committee

**Why This Bill Matters:**

Providing health insurance and food assistance are two of the most critical ways Maryland supports low-income and vulnerable Marylanders. Through Medicaid and the State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Maryland helps hundreds of thousands of Marylanders access basic healthcare and food. These Marylanders can access preventative care, increasing their quality of life and decreasing the amount the State would pay for uninsured, sicker Marylanders.

Unfortunately, last summer the federal Administration passed the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB). The federal Administration significantly reduced Medicaid coverage and SNAP benefits under OBBB by implementing new work requirements for Medicaid and SNAP recipients. Estimates indicate nearly 130,000 Maryland Medicaid recipients may lose coverage because of work requirements and 40,000 Marylanders may lose SNAP benefits because of the same. Understanding the importance of maintaining healthcare and the ability of all Marylanders to purchase quality food, it is critical to prevent as many Marylanders as possible from being unenrolled in these programs because of new federal work requirements. Marylanders need the State to step in as much as possible to protect these crucial benefits.

**What This Bill Does:**

Senate Bill 772 requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish an employment training and opportunity database to help Marylanders on Medicaid and SNAP meet work requirements. Under the legislation, key agencies that interact with employers, such as the Department of Labor, must create a process in which people can recommend jobs, apprenticeships, trainings, or other similar workforce opportunities for inclusion in the database. The Department of Health must work with other government agencies, the private sector, labor, and educational institutions to develop and maintain the database.

The database also must include vocational, workforce training, and job placement programs available in Maryland, including how to apply and the ability to contact the programs directly

through the database. The Department of Health will update the database at least every 30 days. Marylanders will be able to access the database on a dedicated page on the website until September 30, 2029, the end of the federal fiscal year.

**Why You Should Vote for This Bill:**

Senate Bill 772 eases the burden of new work requirements for Marylanders on Medicaid and SNAP by giving them a one-stop shop for work and training opportunities. Assisting Marylanders comply with new work requirements for these programs is one of our best tools to prevent Marylanders from losing their healthcare and food benefits. The State must do everything in its power to prevent 100,000 adults from losing access to healthcare, and 40,000 adults from losing access to food each month. Creating a database to access work and training opportunities is a commonsense, low-cost approach to counteracting the detrimental changes in OBBB.