

SB0461/623627/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 461
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**Eligibility**” and substitute “**Study**”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 4 down through “individual” in line 6 and substitute “requiring the Department of Human Services to study the potential number of households excluded from automatic standard utility allowance eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program due to enactment of a certain federal law”; in line 7, after “to” insert “a study on eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program within”; strike beginning with the second “and” in line 7 down through “Program” in line 8; and strike in their entirety lines 9 through 13, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 15, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 1 through line 18 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) The Department of Human Services shall study and make recommendations on the potential number of households excluded from automatic standard utility allowance eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program due to enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.

(b) In conducting the study described in subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall:

(1) compile information on the number of households that qualified for automatic standard utility allowance eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program in each

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of fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and for the portion of fiscal year 2026, before enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, including:

- (i) the average monthly payment to each household;
- (ii) the number of households in each county;
- (iii) the number of households with a member who is at least 60 years old; and
- (iv) the number of households with a member who is disabled;

(2) identify the number of households included under paragraph (1) of this subsection that are no longer eligible for the automatic standard utility allowance for the Heat and Eat Program due to enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, including:

- (i) the number of households in each county;
- (ii) the number of households that qualify for the standard utility allowance based on verified energy expenses; and
- (iii) the total dollar amount of the benefits households would have received if they had remained eligible;

(3) identify the number of households included under paragraph (1) of this subsection with a member who is at least 60 years old or who has a disability, including:

- (i) the number of households in each county;

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(ii) the number of households that qualify for the standard utility allowance based on automatic enrollment or separately based on verified energy expenses; and

(iii) the dollar amount of the benefits;

(4) identify the number of households included under paragraph (1) of this subsection that experienced a reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits because the energy assistance payment may not be counted as income due to the enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, including:

(i) the number of households in each county; and

(ii) the dollar amount of the reduced benefits;

(5) evaluate and discuss any other impacts of the reduction of energy assistance benefits on households that are no longer eligible to receive the nominal benefit due to the enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, including impacts for new applicants; and

(6) evaluate the administrative cost and logistics related to the Department's efforts to provide additional assistance to households with eligibility verification based on energy expenses to individuals no longer eligible for automatic standard utility allowance eligibility for the Heat and Eat Program due to enactment of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.

(c) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Human Services shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.”.

On page 2, in line 20, strike “October” and substitute “July”.