

House Bill 648

By: Representatives Scott of the 76th, Davis of the 87th, and Schofield of the 63rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to general provisions relative to public assistance, so as to provide for requirements
3 related to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students; to
4 provide for the distribution of work-study verification forms; to provide for guidance letters;
5 to provide for definitions; to provide for a workgroup and report; to provide for automatic
6 repeal; to provide for a short title; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related
7 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Georgia SNAP for College Students Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 The General Assembly finds that:

- 13 (1) Research suggests that one in four college students experiences hunger;
14 (2) College hunger is linked to harmful consequences for health and academic success;

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- 15 (3) College students face a number of barriers in accessing or receiving food assistance,
16 including stigma, lack of information on available resources, ineligibility for assistance,
17 and barriers to seeking assistance, even for those who are eligible;
- 18 (4) Barriers to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) are especially
19 apparent in the low participation rates in SNAP as a result of federal law; and
- 20 (5) This Act will help to improve participation among SNAP-eligible college students.

21 SECTION 3.

22 Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Title 49 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
23 general provisions relative to public assistance, is amended by adding two new Code sections
24 to read as follows:

25 "49-4-23.

26 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'SNAP E&T program' means the SNAP
27 Employment and Training program established under Section 6(d)(4)(B) of the federal
28 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. Sec. 2015; 7 C.F.R. 273.7, and includes
29 associated administrative notices published by the United States Department of Agriculture
30 with the purpose of assisting members of SNAP households in gaining skills, training,
31 work, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment.

32 (b) For purposes of 7 C.F.R. 273.5(b)(11)(ii), an educational program that could be a
33 component of the SNAP E&T program, as identified by the department, shall be considered
34 an employment and training program under 7 C.F.R. 273.7, unless prohibited by federal
35 law.

36 (c)(1) The department shall maintain, regularly update, and post on its website the list
37 of state or local programs that meet the standard set in 7 C.F.R. 273.5(b)(11)(iv).

38 (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall include adult education
39 and career technical education programs in the list of programs that are deemed to meet

40 the standard set in 7 C.F.R. 273.5(b)(11) as provided for in paragraph (1) of this
41 subsection.

42 (d)(1) The department shall issue, maintain, and post on its website instructions for
43 applicants and county boards that maximize SNAP eligibility and minimize the burden
44 for applicants and recipients to verify exemptions to the SNAP student eligibility rules
45 for students. Such instructions shall include specific guidance for processing
46 applications, reporting, and recertification for students and shall include specific
47 information regarding each exemption to the SNAP student eligibility rules for students.

48 (2) To the extent practicable, technical colleges and universities shall distribute the
49 standardized work-study verification form to all students approved for a work-study
50 program.

51 (e) On or before May 31, 2024, the department shall issue a guidance letter to counties, the
52 University System of Georgia, and the Technical College System of Georgia that clarifies:

53 (1) The state and federal eligibility requirements for a campus based program to be a
54 SNAP E&T program that qualifies for the student exemption for SNAP eligibility, as
55 described in 7 C.F.R. 273.5(b)(11)(iv), and is consistent with 7 C.F.R. 273.7(e)(1); and

56 (2) The process to be followed by a campus based program to become a qualified SNAP
57 E&T program.

58 49-4-24.

59 (a) The department shall convene a workgroup comprising representatives from the
60 University System of Georgia, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia
61 Student Finance Commission; representatives from student organizations from all three
62 sectors of public postsecondary educational institutions; and state and local representatives
63 from the Georgia SNAP program to identify the steps necessary to establish a SNAP
64 application submission process that accommodates the influx of SNAP applications at the

65 start of a school term in counties where large public postsecondary educational institutions
66 with 10,000 students or more are located.

67 (b) On or before April 1, 2024, the department shall submit to the General Assembly a
68 report on the necessary steps identified pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section.
69 Such report shall include any estimates of costs associated with the implementation of such
70 steps and an analysis of using regional partnerships between counties.

71 (c) This Code section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2024."

72 **SECTION 4.**

73 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.