

2019 Legislative Session – Bills related to the work of the ICH

Compiled by Maryland Alliance for the Poor

Housing/Shelter				
HB 672 (SB 810)	Valentino-Smith/Peters	Housing - Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence	Passed - Approved by the Governor	SUPPORT
<p>Establishing the Local Housing Grant Program for Homeless Veterans and Survivors of Domestic Violence to provide grants for housing voucher funds to counties to house homeless veterans and survivors of domestic violence; authorizing the Governor in fiscal year 2020 to include funding in the annual budget for the Program; requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to distribute grants to counties and establish grant application procedures; authorizing the Department to establish preferences for certain counties; etc.</p>				
HB 911 (SB 930)	Krimm/Washington	Workgroup to Study Shelter and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Minors	Passed and approved by the Governor	SUPPORT
<p>Establishing the Workgroup to Study Shelter and Supportive Services for Unaccompanied Homeless Minors; requiring the Senate Chair and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness to serve as cochairs of the Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to identify and compile information on unaccompanied homeless minors and make recommendations regarding policy initiatives to address their needs, including funding requirements; and requiring the Workgroup to report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2019.</p>				
HB 451 (SB 812)	Lafferty/Smith	Fair Housing Opportunities Act of 2019	Died in Committee	SUPPORT
<p>Expanding the housing policy of the State to include providing for fair housing to all citizens regardless of source of income; stating the Act seeks to deconcentrate poverty by providing additional opportunities for tenants utilizing public subsidies to live in certain neighborhoods; prohibiting a person from refusing to sell or rent a dwelling to any person because of source of income; establishing qualifications and limitations on the prohibition against discrimination in housing based on source of income; etc.</p>				
HB 2	Glenn	Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions From Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing	Died in Committee	MONITORED
<p>Establishing the Task Force to Improve Baltimore City Homeless Transitions from Low-Barrier Shelters to Permanent Housing; providing for the composition of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters related to low-barrier shelters and make certain recommendations on volunteering; requiring the Task Force, by December 31, 2019, to report its findings and recommendations to the Mayor of Baltimore City, the Baltimore City Council, the Governor, and the General Assembly; terminating the Act; etc.</p>				

Safety Net Programs

HB 84 (SB 483)	Charkoudian/Guzzone	Maryland Farms and Families Fund - Purpose, Use, Funding, and Grant Qualifications - Alterations	Passed and enacted without Governor's signature	SUPPORT
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Expanding the purpose and use of the Maryland Farms and Families Fund to include grants to nonprofit farmers markets and local nonprofit organizations; authorizing the Department of Agriculture, when awarding grants, to consider a nonprofit organization's record of providing services in food deserts; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a \$100,000 appropriation to the Fund which is in addition to, and may not supplant, any funding appropriated to a certain division in the Department; etc.

HB 226 (SB 550)	Lopez/Guzzone	Food Stamp Program - Minimum Benefit for Disabled Individuals - State Supplement	Died in committee	SUPPORT
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Requiring the State to provide a certain supplement to a household that includes a disabled individual who receives a federally funded benefit of less than \$30 per month under the food stamp program; and defining "disabled individual" as an individual who receives State or federal benefits for which eligibility is based on certain criteria.

SB 752 (HB 838)	Valentino-Smith/Lam	Food Supplement Program - Restaurant Meals Program	Passed and Approved by the Governor	SUPPORT
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Renaming the food stamp program to be the food supplement program; establishing a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) within the food supplement program in the Department of Human Services to expand food access to certain individuals; providing that a certain household is eligible to participate in the RMP if the household is eligible for certain State and federal benefits and lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes certain persons; requiring a restaurant to meet certain requirements to participate; etc.

HB 339 (SB 456)	Valentino-Smith/Guzzone	Family Investment Program - Temporary Cash Assistance - Funding	Died in Committee	SUPPORT
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Requiring the Governor to provide sufficient funds in the budget to ensure that the value of temporary cash assistance, combined with federal food stamps, is equal to at least certain percentages of the State minimum living level for certain fiscal years.

HB 506 (SB 970)	Valentino- Smith/Peters	Maryland Department of Health - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - Reports	Passed and approved by the Governor	SUPPORT
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Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to report certain information regarding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to certain committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2019, and each year thereafter; and requiring the Department, in producing the report, to consult with the Maryland Alliance for the Poor, local health departments, MedChi, the American Academy of Pediatrics Maryland Chapter, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Community Mental Health Centers, and other stakeholders.

HB 1066 (SB 969)	Valentino- Smith/Peters	Family Investment Program - Work Activity Requirement - Authorized Activities and Report	Passed and approved by the Governor	SUPPORT
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Requiring the Department of Human Services to allow an applicant for or recipient of assistance under the Family Investment Program to meet a work activity requirement by participating in vocational education for a minimum of 20 hours per week that leads to an associate degree, a diploma, or a certificate, or 20 hours per week of education directly related to employment; requiring the Department to report certain information to the General Assembly by October 1 of each year; etc.

HB 957	Parrott	Food Stamp Program - Time Limit Waiver - Prohibition	Died in Committee	OPPOSE
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Prohibiting the State from applying for or implementing a federal waiver of the time limit on the receipt of benefits under the food stamp program by an able-bodied adult without dependents who does not meet certain work requirements.

Low-Wage Workers

SB 263 (HB 584)	Wilkins/Ferguson	Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children - Eligibility and Refundability	Died in Committee	SUPPORT
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Expanding the eligibility of the Maryland earned income tax credit to allow certain individuals without qualifying children to claim the credit; allowing certain individuals to claim a refund of the credit; providing that the amount of the credit that may be claimed by certain individuals is adjusted for inflation each year; and applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018.

HB 166 (SB 280)	Fennell/McCray	Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage (Fight for Fifteen)	Passed via Gubernatorial Veto Override	SUPPORT
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Specifying the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for certain time periods and for certain employers except under certain circumstances; authorizing the Board of Public Works to temporarily suspend an increase to the minimum wage rate if the seasonally adjusted total employment is negative, subject to certain limitations; requiring the Governor's proposed budget for certain fiscal years to include certain rate increases for certain community service providers over the funding provided in certain legislative appropriations; etc.

HB 341 (SB 500)	Kelly/Hayes	Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2019)	Died in Committee	SUPPORT
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Establishing the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program; providing for the manner in which the Program is to be administered; providing for the powers and duties of the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation under the Program; requiring, beginning on January 1, 2020, certain employees and employers to pay the Secretary certain contributions; requiring, beginning on July 1, 2021, an individual to meet certain conditions to be eligible for benefits; etc.

HB 585 (SB 262)	Wilkins/Ferguson	Earned Income Tax Credit - Individuals Without Qualifying Children - Calculation and Refundability	Died in Committee	SUPPORT
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Altering the calculation of the Maryland earned income tax credit to allow certain individuals without qualifying children to claim an increased credit; allowing certain individuals to claim a refund of the credit; applying the Act to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018; etc.
