Unprecedented Cuts to SNAP in New Federal Law Could Lead to Georgia Seeing Significant Increases in Food Insecurity and Hunger

On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed H.R. 1, a historic tax and spending bill that would reshape the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill uses nearly $200 billion in cuts to SNAP to partially fund tax reductions that primarily benefit those who are already wealthy; in essence, taking food away from those with the least to benefit those with the most. Even with these spending cuts, the bill still adds $3.4 trillion to the national debt.

This bill enacts several measures that could cause Georgians to lose Food Assistance:

H.R. 1 cuts SNAP, disguised by shifting costs to the states:

For the first time in the program's history, states will have to cover a share of SNAP benefits if they are unable to keep inaccurate payments, also known as error rates, under 6%. (These payments are often the result of mistakes either by state caseworkers or clients.) Starting Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028, States could have to pay between 5% and 15% of the cost of SNAP food assistance based on how high their error rates are. If Georgia has an error rate that requires the state to contribute to SNAP benefits, the amount could run into the hundreds of millions. More details on error rates here.

To maintain level funding, Georgia's leaders would have to make tough decisions to raise revenue, reduce funding for other programs, or find resources elsewhere. If states cannot afford the new cost, they are likely to lower their expenses by making it harder to access food assistance, or they can opt out of the program altogether. Both scenarios would increase food insecurity and hunger.

The bill also increases the state's share of administrative costs from 50% to 75% starting in FFY 2027. To maintain current spending, the state could have to spend tens of millions more on administrative expenses. A reduction in administrative expenses could make it more difficult for the state to keep its error rates low.

H.R. 1 expands SNAP's ineffective work reporting requirements to older adults and parents with children between 14 and 17. It also ends exemptions for veterans, unhoused people and youth who have aged out of foster care. In Georgia, about 96,000 adults will be newly subject to the work reporting requirements and at risk of losing SNAP entirely if they cannot meet the requirements. Approximately 154,000 people could lose at least some of their benefits if an adult in their household is unable to fulfill a reporting requirement.

H.R. 1 prevents many legally present "qualified" immigrants who are not Lawful Permanent Residents from receiving SNAP. This includes low-income legally present immigrants who have been granted humanitarian protections, including refugees, people granted asylum, and certain survivors of domestic violence or labor or sex trafficking, among others.

It freezes future increases to SNAP benefits based on a re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) – a USDA plan that outlines a nutritionally adequate diet at a very low cost. The new law returns to the previous standard of only adjusting SNAP benefits relative to inflation. With food prices rising fast, SNAP benefits may be less able to keep up with growing grocery costs.

Starting in October 2025, the legislation eliminates the National Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, also known as the SNAP-Ed program, which provides nutrition and obesity prevention education.

Implementation Timeline

Unspecified/ Upon Enactment

- Expanded SNAP work reporting requirement
- SNAP restriction on certain immigrants

October 2025

- The elimination of the National Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program, also known as SNAP-Ed

October 2026

- Re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan; no benefit adjustment based on the re-evaluation.
- Increase of the state administrative costs from 50% to 75%

October 2027

- Start of the cost-shift for states with error rates between 6% and 13.33%

October 2028

- Delayed implementation of SNAP cost shift for FFY 2025 error rates that are 13.33% or greater

October 2029

- Delayed implementation of SNAP cost shift based on FFY 2026 error rates that are 13.33% or greater

For list of sources and more detail about the measures in this bill, please visit our analysis of the bill: