

**Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB 1723 ER

Patron: Price

Bill Title: Department of Social Services; establishment of Task Force on Improving Access to Food Assistance Programs

Bill Summary: The enrolled bill requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to convene a work group with such members as it deems necessary or appropriate to evaluate methods to improve access and maximize participation in all federal public assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture relating to assistance with food access and improving food security.

The work group must collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including the Commission to End Hunger, to evaluate the following: (i) removing administrative barriers to applying for participation in federal public assistance programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture relating to assistance with food access and improving food security; (ii) improving outreach to increase awareness of such programs among individuals who would otherwise be eligible to participate in such programs but may not be aware of such programs; and (iii) collecting relevant data. In conducting its work, the work group shall consider the specific needs and circumstances of different populations and demographics in the Commonwealth and how those needs and circumstances could increase barriers to program access and impact the efficacy of outreach campaigns and methods. DSS must report the work group's findings and recommendations by December 1, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: -

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation is expected to have minimal impact on affected agencies.

Fiscal Analysis: It is assumed that DSS would be able to convene the work group as required by the legislation within existing resources. However, findings and recommendations would be limited by available agency data, stakeholder input, and the bill's time frame.

Other: None