

# HB 947 – Georgia SNAP Healthier Choices Act of 2026

## Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 947](#) - The bill plans to restrict the purchase of prepared food and beverages from food service establishments with SNAP benefits. EBT cards also require the full legal name and photo ID. SNAP users must have US citizenship and meet all federal SNAP work requirements. Individuals’ eligibility will also be reconsidered more frequently, with the Department of Public Health and Department of Labor checking information monthly and quarterly.

Criteria	Variables			
<b>Impact</b> <b>Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders &amp; opinions.</b>	<b>Negative</b>		Positive	
	The Georgia SNAP Healthier Choices Act of 2026 aims to strengthen program oversight, reduce administrative error and prevent fraud through stricter eligibility verification, data matching and work requirement enforcement. While these measures may improve program accountability, adding the extra layer of verification work may increase administrative burden. At the same time, this bill aims to expand SNAP use at local farmers markets, which could improve access to fresh foods and support healthier dietary patterns among SNAP participants. As a result, the bill presents a mixed impact: it may enhance program integrity while potentially limiting access to nutrition assistance for some vulnerable populations.			
<b>Reach</b> <b>Does it reach its target audience?</b>	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	<b>2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.</b>	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	This bill has wide-reaching effects on Georgians. <a href="#">13%</a> of Georgian’s, or 1 in 8, receive SNAP benefits. Over 69% have children, over 28% are families with older adults or disabled individuals, and more than 37% are in working families, per <a href="#">data from the USDA</a> . SNAP struggles with accessibility, as <a href="#">only 72%</a> of eligible Georgians participated in 2020. 61% of Georgians view SNAP as very important, and nearly 15% view it as moderately important, including roughly 90% of Democrats, 80% of independents, and 60% of Republicans, according to a <a href="#">GBPI and UGA SPIA poll</a> .			
<b>Scientific Merit</b> <b>Does it utilize scientific research accurately?</b>	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		<b>NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.</b>	
	The rationale for such a bill is supported by <a href="#">evidence</a> that administrative oversight, data-matching systems and verification processes can reduce improper payments and fraud in large public assistance programs. However, from a public health perspective, extensive <a href="#">research</a> also demonstrates that SNAP participation is associated with improved food security, fewer sick days and better health outcomes. Research also suggested that policies that restrict SNAP participation can lead to <a href="#">worse health outcomes</a> for vulnerable populations. After weighing the existing literature on policies and population health, an overly restrictive administrative policies (such as this bill) may undermine SNAP’s evidence-based role in improving nutrition and population health.			

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<b>Financial Feasibility</b> <b>Is it financially feasible?</b> <b>or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?</b>	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	<b>2 - Slight</b>	3 - No financial burden
	<p>The bill <a href="#">intends</a> to avoid the new federal penalty on states with SNAP errors, requiring Georgia to pay 5-15% of its benefits since its costs are over 6%. States are required to pay 75% of their administrative costs, contrary to the previous 50%. However, this bill would <a href="#">cause</a> significant barriers to vulnerable populations needing the financial assistance to buy food, especially communities with language barriers facing additional paperwork barriers and immigrant communities fearful of the current administration. Additionally, SNAP is estimated to increase economic activity. The <a href="#">USDA</a> estimated that \$1 of SNAP benefits generates \$1.50 in economic activity for the nation.</p>			
<b>Political Feasibility</b> <b>Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.</b>	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	<b>1 – Split along party lines</b>	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	<p>The bill passed the House 95-66 with largely Republican support and Democratic opposition.</p>			
<b>Measurable Metrics?</b> <b>We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?</b>	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	<b>2 - most data / somewhat accessible</b>	3 - complete transparency
	<p>To evaluate program integrity, data such as error rates, number of fraud investigations can be collected. Public health impact could be assessed by changes in SNAP participation rates and food security levels.</p>			