

HR 7567 - Congress's Farm Bill (Passed House)

Researched and Compiled by Elizabeth Bobo, Legislative Director

Economic Impact

- **Shifts costs and responsibilities onto states**, creating new unfunded mandates that states and agencies must absorb
- **Increases state cost-sharing for SNAP**, requiring the State to contribute more to program administration and benefits delivery
- **Triggers new state matching-fund requirements** for several programs, placing additional pressure on state budgets
- **Imposes new implementation costs on Maryland agencies**, including:
 - Enhanced Buy American provisions for school meals
 - Foreign agricultural land ownership transparency measures
 - Expanded access to federal disaster assistance

Workers' Impact

- **Staff shortages**
 - The bill does nothing to address the severe staffing shortages at USDA, even after thousands of employees last year took deferred resignations
 - Fewer federal workers mean slower program delivery, reduced oversight, and heavier workloads on remaining staff
- **Privatization**
 - Section 4103 weakens a longstanding federal requirement that SNAP be administered by merit-based public employees
 - This section would allow states to outsource SNAP administration, opening the door to privatization, with reduced accountability and negative impacts to lower-income families
- **Pesticide protections**
 - The bill blocks state and local governments from enforcing stronger protections against harmful pesticides, including restrictions on using harmful chemicals near schools, parks, and community spaces
- **Reduced Worker and Community Safety**
 - The bill increases risks for farmworkers, food employees, and communities living near treated fields
 - Weakening public sector administration of SNAP undermines stable, professional jobs that will degrade service quality for millions of people

Environmental Impact

- **Increases pollution in the Chesapeake Bay**, the bill fails to strengthen voluntary agricultural conservation programs that the Chesapeake Watershed depends on to curb its largest source of nutrient runoff.
- **No funding to maintain core soil conservation programs**; farmers lose support for practices that prevent erosion, reduce runoff, and keep waterways clean
- **Weakens conservation investments**, the bill cuts or limits programs that build soil health, reduce reliance of certain fertilizers, and improve long-term ecosystem resilience
- **Restricts federal assistance for clean-energy transitions on farmland**, the bill limits support for installing solar on agricultural land, slowing the state's ability to expand renewable energy in rural communities
- **Delays critical pesticide safety reviews** - Section 10204 postpones EPA's mandate to determine whether pesticides pose "unreasonable environmental harms," delaying new safeguards and allowing potentially harmful products to continue being sold/used

Poverty Impacts

- **Deepens food insecurity for families** - hunger is already at crisis levels with nearly 48 million people being food insecure in 2024 in the nation according to a December 2025 Household Food Security Report
- **Worsens child poverty and hunger** - Children living in food-insecure households rose from 13.8 million in 2023 to more than 14 million in 2024, and the bill's provisions and further SNAP cuts and changes destabilize access to nutrition support
- **Ignores the severe SNAP cuts enacted under HR 1**; instead of reversing or delaying the cuts, the bill leaves in place reductions that will push more households into poverty

Summary

Economic Impact - Shifts major costs onto states through new unfunded mandates, higher SNAP cost-sharing, and expanded matching fund requirements, while imposing additional implementation burdens on agencies.

Workers' Impact - Fails to address severe USDA staffing shortages, worsening service delays and oversight gaps, while opening the door to SNAP privatization that weakens accountability, undermines good jobs, and reduces protections for low-income families; also blocks stronger state and local pesticide safeguards, increasing risks for workers and nearby communities.

Environmental Impact - Undermines Chesapeake Bay cleanup by weakening conservation programs, cutting support for soil health and runoff reduction, restricting clean-energy transitions on farmland, and delaying EPA pesticide safety reviews, allowing harmful chemicals to remain in use longer.

Poverty Impacts - Deepens food insecurity and child hunger by leaving in place severe SNAP cuts, and destabilizes nutrition access for millions.