

No. 12

(Senate Joint Resolution No. 40)

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Commodity Supplemental Food Commodities Program

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish--a study the feasibility of establishing a United States Department of Agriculture Commodity Supplemental Food Program within the Department; providing that the Program aid--certain--clients eligible--for--the--Women,--Infants,--and--Children Program; requiring that the Program be effective by a--certain--date; and--generally--providing--for a Commodity Supplemental Feed Program within the Department of Health and--Mental--Hygiene requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to report the findings of the study to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date; requiring that a United States Department of Agriculture Commodity Supplement Food Program in the Department be in effect by a certain date applied for and if approved, be in effect at the earliest possible date; and generally relating to a Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program provides highly nutritious food to low-income pregnant and lactating women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age who are vulnerable to malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland WIC Program has identified 14,819 women, 20,069 infants, and 72,943 children in the State to be eligible for benefits; and

WHEREAS, The current cap on federal funding permits only 47,000 individuals (or 44 percent of this population) to be served; and

WHEREAS, No additional federal moneys are to be forthcoming in the near future; and

WHEREAS, In 1981 the USDA Food and Nutrition Service has established the Commodity Supplemental Food Program designed to distribute to WIC eligible persons nutritious foods which have been donated by the USDA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene apply for--and--establish--a--Commodity--Supplemental--Feed--Program--within the--Department--of--Health--and--Mental--Hygiene--to--