
House Bill 1449

Food Stamp Program - Time Limit Waiver - Prohibition

March 8, 2016

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY: DELEGATES PARROTT, CASSILLY, KREBS, McCOMAS,
MCMILLAN, METZGAR AND MORGAN



What Does This Bill Do?

HB 1449 would re-establish the original Federal time limits to receipt of food stamp assistance in Washington County.

Specifically, what Does This Bill Do?

It provides that the State **may not apply for a Federal waiver** of the time limit on the receipt of benefits under the Food Stamp Program by an individual who:

- is an able-bodied adult without dependents (“ABAWD”)
- does not meet all applicable work requirements
- who lives in Washington County.

General Facts

A food stamp provision of the 1996 Federal welfare law limits the reception of food stamps of able-bodied adults without dependents to three months out of each 3-year period, **unless** the the individual is working, in job training, or volunteering for a certain amount of time each week.

General Facts

In 2009, a provision allowed the States to apply for a waiver of that Federal time limit provision, and to waive work requirements in that time of high unemployment and financial uncertainty.

Many States applied for the waiver, including Maryland and Maine.

General Facts

Since the 2009 waiver, the fastest growth in Food Stamp participation has been among able-bodied adults without dependents” - “ABAWDs”

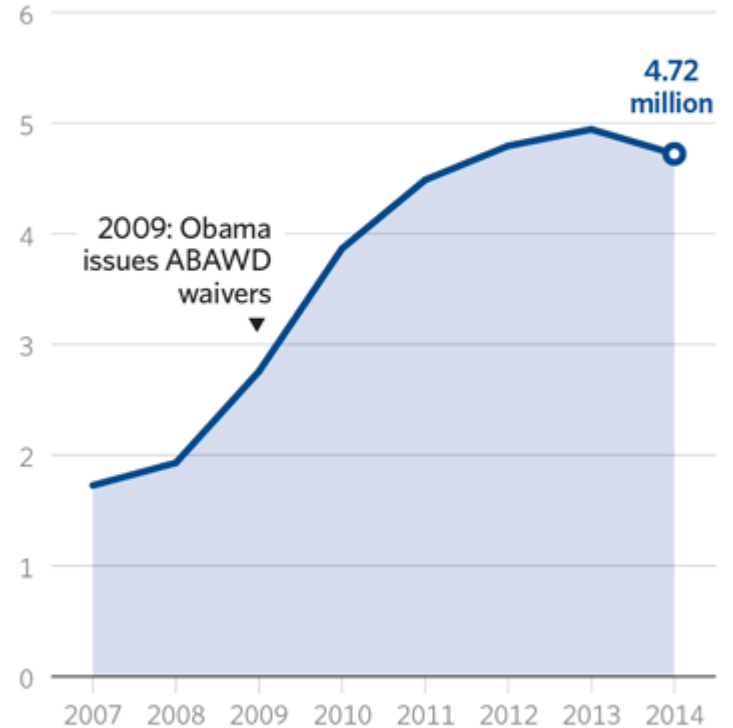
General Facts

Since 2009, when President Obama issued the work requirement waivers for ABAWDs, the caseload increased nearly 150%, from nearly 2 Million to almost 5 Million

CHART 1

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) on Food Stamps

IN MILLIONS



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.

Maine background

In 2014, Maine announced that it would no longer apply for a Federal waiver of the ABAWD work requirement.

This reinstated the 3-month limitation to receive food stamps, unless the ABAWD was working participating in a work program, or doing community service/volunteering for roughly 6 hours a week.

Maine - The Facts

Maine's ABAWD caseload plummeted:

From 13,332 (Dec. 2014) to 4,540 (Jan. 2015).

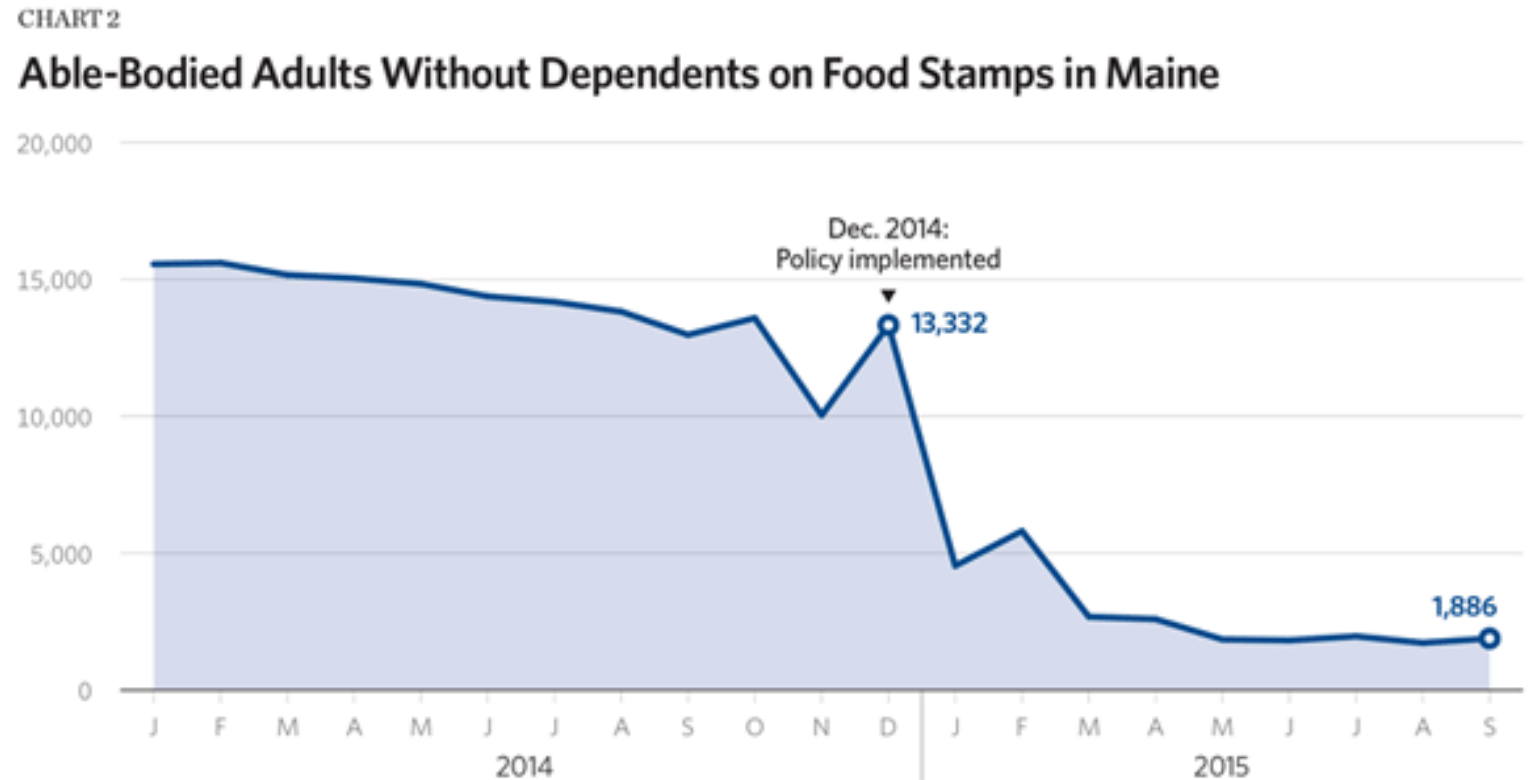
The caseload continued to fall:

March 2015 - 2,678

September 2015 - 1,886

Main - The Facts (in graph)

Here's a graph, showing those figures:



Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

BG 3091 heritage.org

Maryland - The Facts

At present, six counties in Maryland no longer qualify for the ABAWD time limit waiver:

Baltimore County

Anne Arundel County

Prince George's County

Montgomery County

Carroll County

Howard County

Amendment

Initially, this Bill would have applied State-wide. You will see that we have amended the bill and have instead made this a Pilot Program just for Washington County.

A copy of that Amendment has been provided to you.

The effective date has also been changed to July instead of October, 2016 - recognizing that there is a substantial lag time before the time limits actually kick in.

The Benefits

Reinstating the time limits for the receipt of food stamps encourages compliance with the work or volunteer provisions of the Federal Law - and promotes a good work ethic by our citizens, requiring them to either be working or volunteering and thereby contributing to the community which is providing the food stamp benefits to them giving them:

Work Ethic

Respect

Basic Dignity

HB 1449 - What the Bill is not:

- This Bill does *not* require the implementation of any additional work placement programs beyond anything already required by the Federal Food Stamp Act
- This Bill does *not* attempt to implement a new program - it restores the original one, which has been waived, since 2009
- This Bill has no effect on children – or requirement for child care - as this relates solely to ABAWDs, those with *no dependents*.

Benefits of HB 1449 - "Food Stamp Program - Time Limit Waiver - Prohibition"

Encourages work and volunteer activities, to the extent that the ABAWD receives Food Stamp Assistance

Increases volunteerism

Reduces dependence on State and Federal Aid programs

We ask for a favorable Report on
HB 1449

Questions?