

# House Bill HB 957

Food Stamp Program - Time Limit Waiver - Prohibition

March 12, 2019

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

SPONSORED BY: DELEGATE PARROTT

# What Does This Bill Do?

HB 957 would re-establish the original Federal time limits to receipt of food stamp assistance in Maryland

# 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.

# 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 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 or volunteer requirements entirely.

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”

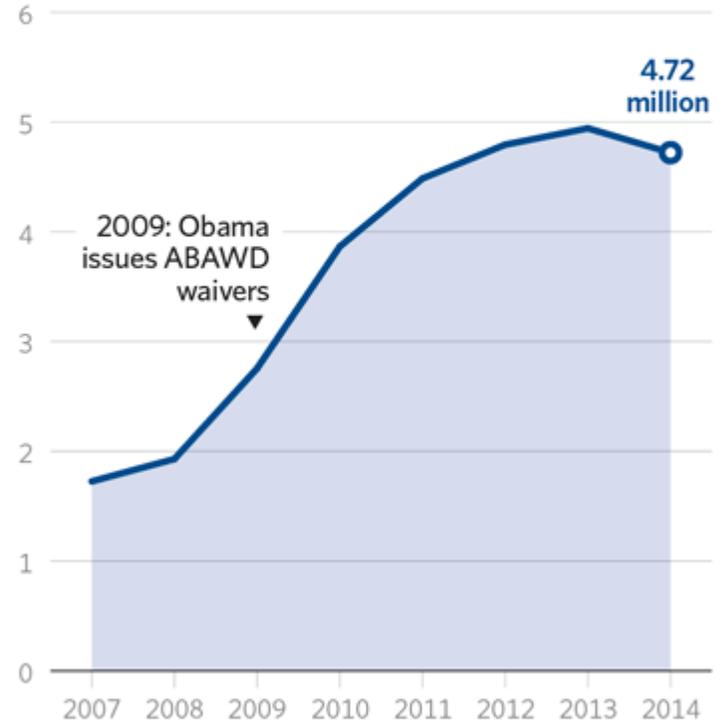
# General Facts

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's Change

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 for 20 hours per week, or doing community service/volunteering for roughly 6 hours a week<sup>1</sup>.

# 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)

CHART 2

## Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents on Food Stamps in Maine



Source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services.

BG 3091  heritage.org

# Maryland - The Facts

At the beginning of 2016, six counties in Maryland no longer qualified for the ABAWD time limit waiver:

- Baltimore County
- Anne Arundel County
- Prince George's County
- Montgomery County
- Carroll County
- Howard County

# Maryland - The Facts, cont.

- Frederick and Washington Counties implemented the no-waiver policy in April 2016
- Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's went to no-waiver in September 2016.
- Baltimore City, Eastern Shore, Garrett, and Allegany Counties currently remain waived from the ABAWD policy

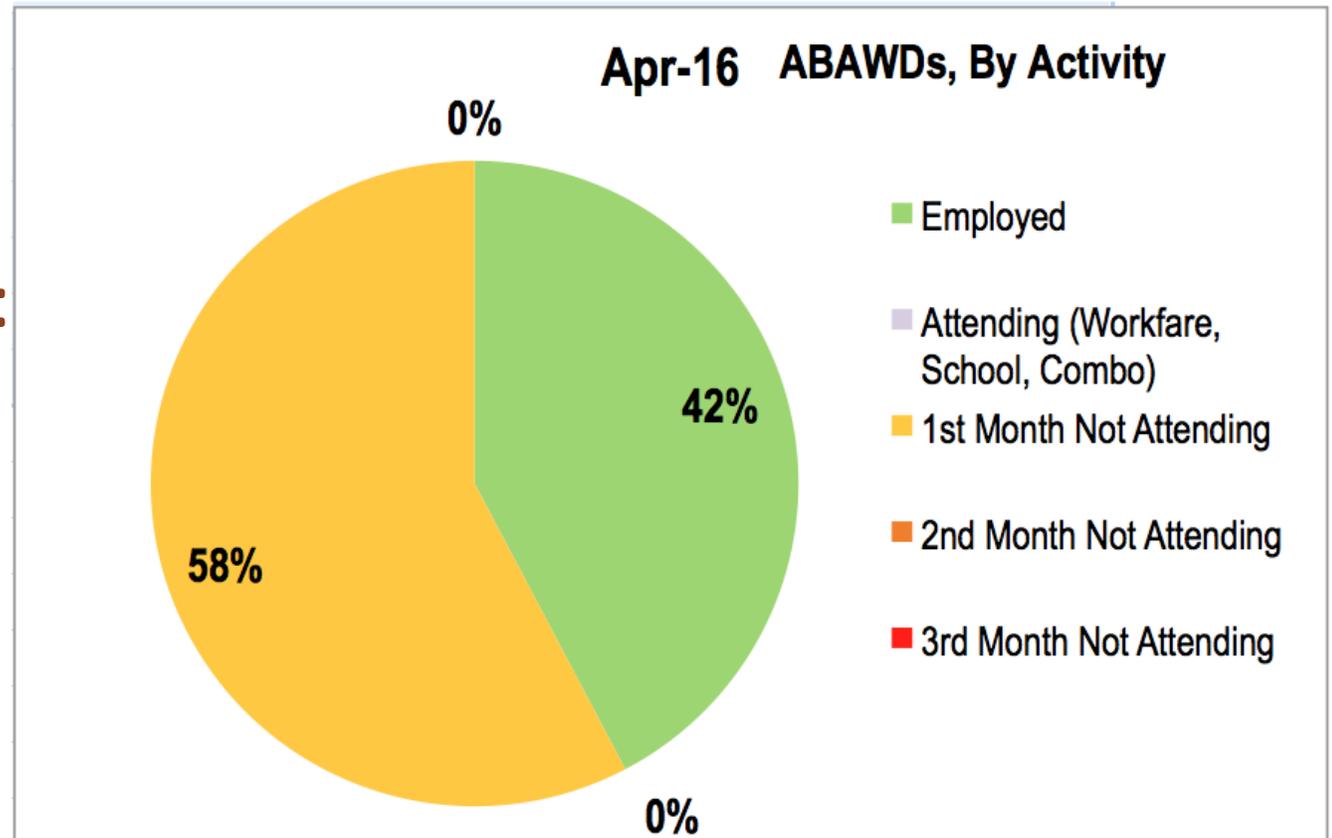
# Maryland - The Facts, cont.

Here's what happened in Washington Co. last year, as of April, 2016

after non-waiver

(Green means "employed"):

Total ABAWDs: 3,550

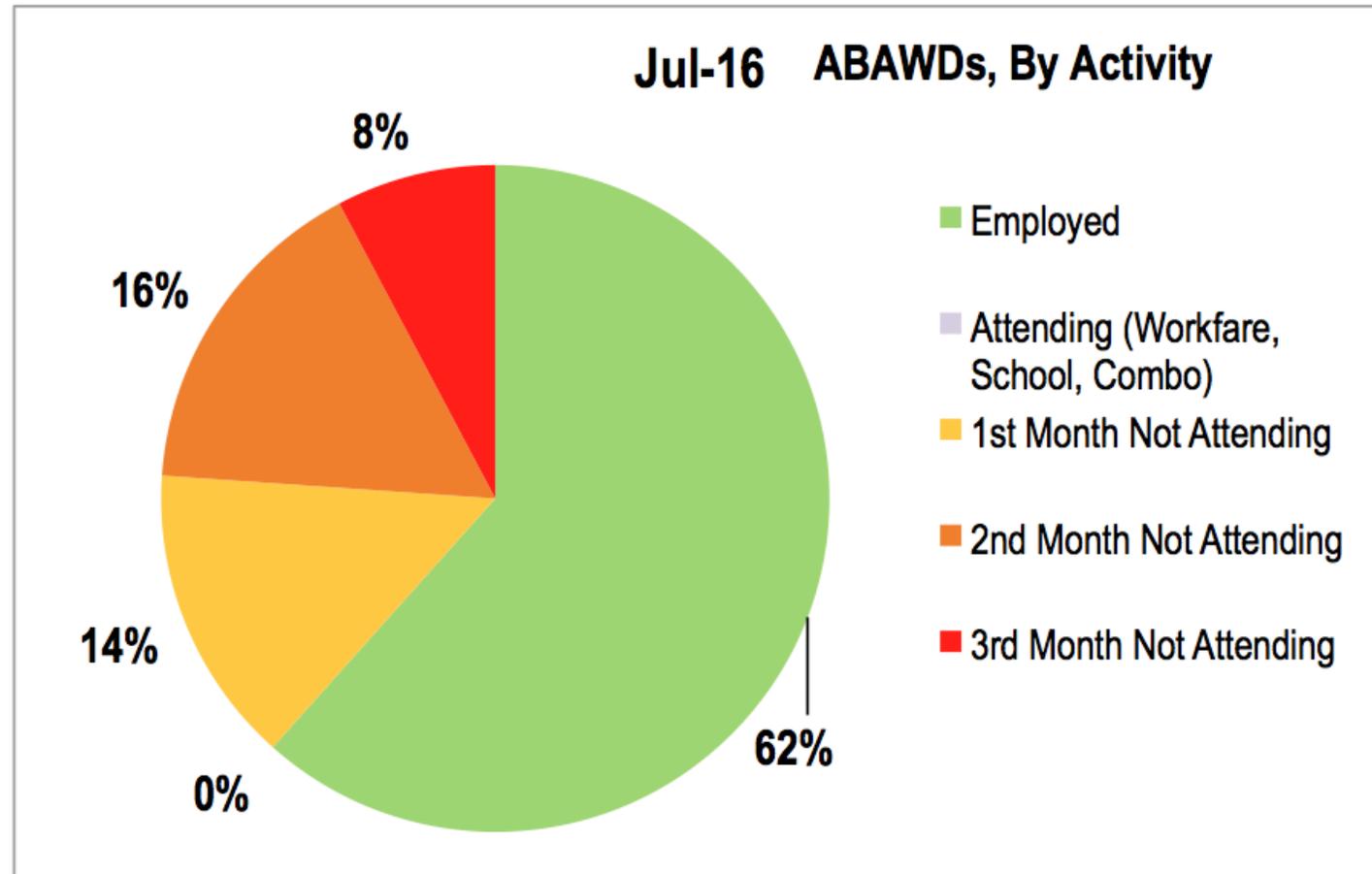


# Maryland - The Facts, cont.

July 2016

Total ABAWDs: 2581

Started at 3550

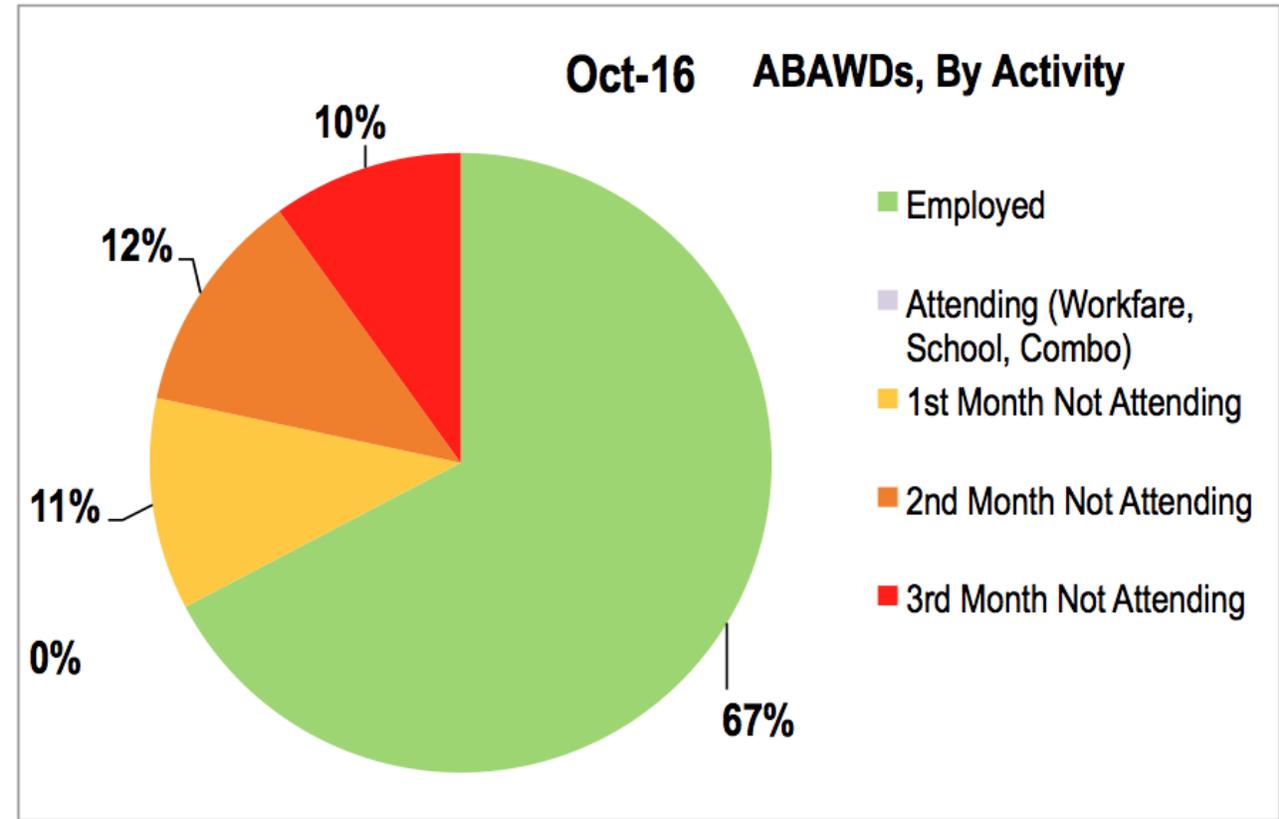


# Maryland - The Facts, cont.

October 2016:

Total ABAWDs: 2571

Started at 3550



# 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 for participants. By working or volunteering time, participants will contribute to the community, and have a better feeling of ownership and self-worth

Work Ethic

Respect

Basic Dignity

## HB 957- 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 957- "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 957

**Questions?**