DOAA
Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

**Greg S. Griffin**
State Auditor

January 9, 2026

Honorable Sam Park
State Representative
609 Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill 828 (LC 60 0128)

Dear Representative Park:

The bill would establish a new refundable tax credit for individuals who lose access to federal SNAP benefits due to eligibility requirement changes. The bill establishes as a baseline the SNAP eligibility requirements in effect on March 31, 2025, and individuals who lose access after that date may qualify for this proposed credit, up to $1,200. Credits would be allowed for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, but are subject to appropriations.

**Impact on Revenue**
Georgia State University's Fiscal Research Center (FRC) estimated that the bill would decrease revenue as shown in Table 1. The appendix provides details of the analysis.

**Table 1. Estimated State Revenue Effects of HB 828 LC 60 0128**

| ($ *millions*) | FY 2027 | FY 2028 | FY 2029 | FY 2030 | FY 2031 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Refundable Credits | ($156.0) | ($117.0) | ($87.8) | ($65.8) | ($49.4) |

**Impact on Expenditures**
The Department of Revenue (DOR) would incur one-time and annual costs associated with the bill, as shown in **Table 2**. Given the expected number of claims in the first year, DOR estimated the need for additional staff in its audit and taxpayer service units. The postage and printing costs assume that 50% of the claims are paper based. As noted in FRC's analysis, the number of claims is expected to drop significantly within two years, which would reduce DOR's administrative costs.

**Table 2. Estimated DOR Costs of HB 828 LC 60 0128 in Year One**

| | One-Time Costs | Annual Costs |
|---|---|---|
| Audit Staff (2) | $3,650 | $195,700 |
| Taxpayer Service Staff (14) | $21,900 | $874,600 |
| Postage and Printing | | $494,900 |
| Total | $25,550 | $1,565,200 |

Note: FRC's analysis assumes that claims will drop over time, meaning that DOR to comply with the bill should decline as well.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mt

## Analysis by the Fiscal Research Center

On July 4, 2025, the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR 1) was enacted, modifying multiple eligibility requirements for SNAP benefits. This analysis focuses on tax credits for individuals who would qualify for the credits proposed in the subject bill due to changes established in this legislation. Any further changes in the future that restrict access or reduce benefits for participants before such change would also generate tax credits under this proposal, in which case the fiscal impacts estimated here would understate the impact of this bill.

HR1 impacted SNAP benefits in two broad ways: eligibility limitations and benefit reductions.

Estimates for credits based on changes through eligibility requirements are based on the following data and assumptions:

- US Department of Agriculture (USDA) data as of September 2025, the latest available, indicate that the average benefit for SNAP recipients in Georgia was $144 per month. The estimate here assumes that, on a full year basis, that all recipients lost more than $1,200 in SNAP benefits.
- Multiple sections of HR 1 restricted access to SNAP, primarily by limiting waiver access for certain work requirements. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that 2.49 million recipients nationally would no longer qualify for SNAP due to these changes. No state-level breakdown of impacted recipients is available.
- In September 2025, 4.61 percent of national SNAP recipients were in Georgia. We apply this share to the CBO national estimate above to estimate that approximately 114,800 pre-HR 1 recipients are impacted in Georgia.
- USDA and states were required to implement the new requirements by November 1, 2025. This predates the effective date of the bill, so a full-year fiscal impact is assumed to impact returns filed in FY 2027.
- The first-year impact of the $1,200 refundable credit for those receiving SNAP benefits prior to enactment of HR 1 and who are impacted by these changes is estimated to be $137.8 million.
- The fiscal impact from these credits is assumed to decline over time as individuals' circumstances change such that they would no longer be eligible for SNAP under the pre-HR 1 rules. Based on academic studies of attrition from SNAP before enactment of HR 1, we assume 25 percent of individual no longer quality for credits due to economic attrition of this type.

Estimates for credits based on changes that reduced benefits are based on the following data and assumptions:

- HR 1 changes to the Thrifty Food Plan reduced the projected growth in average benefits over time. The CBO baseline average benefit under HR 1 is expected to be $213 by 2034 and would have been expected to be $227. Though these are reductions in benefits, the impact is considered marginal and not therefore estimated.
- Certain heating and cooling allowances were eliminated. The CBO estimates that this will reduce the annual benefit for 3 percent of all SNAP recipients—roughly 58,000 individuals in Georgia—by $100 per year, so the change is estimated to create $5.8 million in refundable credits in FY 2027, which is assumed to decrease through attrition over time.
- SNAP benefits were reduced to no longer account for household internet expenses. This change was estimated by the CBO to impact 65 percent of all SNAP recipients but reduces their monthly benefit by less than $10. Sixty-five percent of SNAP recipients in Georgia is roughly 1.25 million individuals, so this change is estimated to generate $12.5 million in refundable credits in FY 2027, which is also assumed to decrease through attrition over time.

Finally, the bill provides that the availability of this credit for any tax year is subject to appropriations, presumably in the next legislative session after the given tax year. Though not assured, this note assumes that funds are appropriated to cover the full amount of credits, up to $1,200 per eligible taxpayer.

The fiscal impacts in Table 1 are the totals of the three estimated credit types for each year, all of which are decreasing due to attrition, and are converted to fiscal years assuming impact at the time of filing returns.