

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 586

(Senator Middleton, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the  
Southern Maryland Region

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region, including Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, to provide the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of that region with fresh farm products. The task force is staffed by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Members of the task force do not receive compensation. The task force must:

- assess the nutritional needs of the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of the Southern Maryland region;

- study the infrastructure and equipment required to best serve those needs;
- make recommendations regarding the locations of collection and distribution sites throughout the region;
- make recommendations regarding the operation and management of a hub and spoke program, including human resources, the collaboration among members of the agricultural community and anti-hunger organizations, and processes for collecting and distributing locally grown farm food;
- make recommendations regarding education and outreach efforts throughout the region regarding the hub and spoke program; and
- study and make recommendations regarding options for granting State and local tax incentives to individuals who donate locally grown farm food to the hub and spoke program and how to verify the activities of those individuals.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the General Assembly by December 1, 2013.

**Background:** The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission was convened by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland in 2000, when the State instituted a voluntary tobacco buy-out program to transition farms out of tobacco production. The commission has assisted farmers in transitioning from tobacco production to alternative crops and agricultural enterprises and works to promote local farm products. The bill allows for the study of a related function of facilitating the donation of locally grown foods to the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of the Southern Maryland Region. “Hub and spoke” refers to a system for collection (to a hub or distribution center) and distribution to the community.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1019 (Delegate Jameson, *et al.*) - Environmental Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Charles and St. Mary’s counties, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2013  
mc/lgc Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 16, 2013

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