



**The Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 1318***

***Environment - Waste Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs -  
Established***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment  
**Date:** March 26, 2024  
**From:** Gabrielle Leach

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1318.

**Bill Summary**

As proposed, HB 1318 would establish the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program (Program). The Program would award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) would administer the Program, in consultation with MDE. The bill would also establish the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program to be administered by MDE, in consultation with MDA.

**Position Rationale**

MDE supports HB 1318 in concept as it will help establish a grant program within MDE and MDA for organics recycling infrastructure. Grant funding is important to help scale organics recycling in the State while decreasing the amount of waste going to landfills. However, in order for a grant program to be successful, it is critical for funding to be allocated.

Should this bill pass, MDE would look forward to working with the Maryland General Assembly and affected stakeholders in identifying a permanent funding source to support the referenced grant programs over the 2024 Interim.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1318.