

HB 56 – Procurement – State Department of Education – Local Food Purchasing Program

Position: Support

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Date: March 26, 2025

From: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) supports HB 56. DGS supports the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) establishing and administering a program to connect local public school systems with local farms and fisheries to provide local food products to students. DGS is currently working with both MSDE and the Maryland Department of Agriculture on efforts to establish such a program.

In support of this legislation, DGS worked collaboratively with the bill sponsors, along with our sister agencies, to develop the amendments incorporated into the Third Reader of HB 56 as it passed in the House of Delegates.

For the reasons detailed above, DGS requests a favorable report on HB 56.