

**SB 162 Senator Simonaire\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## **SB 162 - Repeal of Cantaloupe Provisions**

I am Senator Simonaire presenting SB 162.

Out of respect for the committee's time, and since I worked with the Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders on this consensus legislation with no known opposition, I asked my panel to just submit written letters of support.

Initially, I was going to submit legislation to remove the exemption Anne Arundel County had to this section as I thought it odd that only one county in the state would be exempt from the section dealing with Cantaloupes.

When I started my research, I could not find any support or reasoning why AACo was exempted from this section of law.

As I researched more, the Department of Agriculture confirmed this entire subtitle was outdated now and that didn't reflect current practice, and the correct action would be to repeal the entire subtitle.

It was very odd to me to just have a subtitle on cantaloupes when there is a general provision for fruit and vegetables already in law, and even stranger to have one county exempt from the section. [Subtitle 7 – Fruits and Vegetables]

Therefore, the bill before you.

This section originally setup guidelines for the labelling and inspection of cantaloupes by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. However, today the department no longer is responsible for this type of inspection as the USDA now oversees this process. Thus, this process is no longer needed in law.

It's nice to reduce the number of laws in Maryland when appropriate, and this is a clear case where we do not want confusing and contradictory laws on the books.

For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.

# **MDFB - Support - SB162 Departmental Authority Over**

Uploaded by: Tyler Hough

Position: FAV



## Maryland Farm Bureau

3358 Davidsonville Road | Davidsonville, MD 21035  
410-922-3426 | [www.mdfarmbureau.com](http://www.mdfarmbureau.com)

January 24, 2025

To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

RE: Support of SB0162 Agriculture - Departmental Authority Over Identification, Inspection, and Sale of Cantaloupes – Repeal

On behalf of the nearly 8,000 member families of the Maryland Farm Bureau, I submit written testimony in support of SB162 Agriculture - Departmental Authority Over Identification, Inspection, and Sale of Cantaloupes – Repeal. This bill would repeal the Department of Agriculture's authority over the identification, inspection, and sale of cantaloupes.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently responsible for the identification, inspection, and sale of cantaloupes. With this change and removal of the Cantaloupe section of the Maryland Annotated Agriculture Code, it will not affect or change any current regulations or requirements for those growing and selling cantaloupes in our state.

Maryland Farm Bureau Supports SB162

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Hough', with a horizontal line above it.

Tyler Hough

Director of Government Relations

*Please contact Tyler Hough, [though@marylandfb.org](mailto:though@marylandfb.org), with any questions*

**SB 162 - MDA LOI docx.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Jones

Position: INFO



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Kevin Atticks, Secretary

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## Maryland Department of Agriculture

### Legislative Comment

DATE: January 24, 2025

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 162

**SHORT TITLE:** Agriculture - Departmental Authority Over Identification, Inspection, and Sale of Cantaloupes - Repeal

**MDA POSITION:** Information

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This legislation would repeal The Maryland Department of Agriculture's (MDA) authority over the identification, inspection, and sale of cantaloupes. MDA appreciates the sponsor's intent to update an antiquated statute that doesn't conform to federal inspection standards through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). MDA has not inspected cantaloupes in at least 12 years as a result of the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Grades and Standards process.

The USDA shields and labels assure consumers that the products they buy have gone through a rigorous review process by highly-skilled graders & auditors that follow the official grade standards and process standards developed, maintained and interpreted by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

The MDA's Food Quality Assurance Program (FQAP) conducts fruit inspections in relation to Produce Safety Rule. This program looks at produce safety as it relates to the farm and "covered" produce under the Rule. Cantaloupes would be considered "covered" produce because they are on FDA's list of produce that is consumed raw. For these inspections we aren't "inspecting" the produce (i.e. cantaloupes) as it relates to quality but rather the practices involved in the production, harvesting, and storing of the crop. The Produce Safety Rule established minimum standards for safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. Key requirements of the Rule focus on agricultural water; biological soil amendments; sprouts; domesticated and wild animals; workers training; health and hygiene; and equipment, tools, and buildings. Not all fruits and vegetable growers may be covered under the Produce Safety Rule, it is based on the farm's gross produce sales, and some farms that may be covered can apply for one of the exemptions outlined in the Rule if they meet the requirements.

As a result of the USDA AMS grading and standards and the Produce Safety Rule, the existing statute has been obsolete for well over a decade. The repeal will have no impact on current MDA operations.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at [rachel.jones2@maryland.gov](mailto:rachel.jones2@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5886.