

# **SENATE HB1228 Montgomery County Agricultural Reser**

Uploaded by: Jordan BaucumColbert

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
Park and Planning Commission

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** HB 1228 - Department of Commerce - Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study MC 15-25

**Position:** SUPPORT

**Date:** April 1, 2025

**Contact:** Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Brian Feldman:

The Montgomery County Planning Board (the “Board”) has voted in support of this bill.

**What this Bill Does.** This bill compels the Department of Commerce to conduct a study of opportunities to increase the economic vitality of Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve.

**Supporting the Agricultural Preserve.** The Commission supports the intent of this legislation. Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve represents one-third of the total land area in the County. It is therefore critical that we regularly monitor and study the area to ensure that it maintains economic viability. It is appropriate for the Department of Commerce to take the lead in this study, and we look forward to supporting them with any data sharing and/or resources we can provide.

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote in support of HB 1228.

**HB 1228 - MoCo\_Wenger\_FAV (GA 25) (Senate).pdf**

Uploaded by: Melanie Wenger

Position: FAV



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

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HB 1228

DATE: April 1, 2025

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Melanie Wenger (melanie.wenger@montgomerycountymd.gov)

COUNTY POSITION: Support

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### Department of Commerce – Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study MC 15-25

House Bill 1228 requires the Maryland Department of Commerce in coordination with various Montgomery County agencies and organizations to study economic development in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, with a focus on the tourist and visitor economy. The legislation outlines how the study should be conducted, including its purpose, which is to use the work product to help inform how best to promote and preserve the Ag Reserve and support the small businesses, recreation sites, and historic sites that depend on the visitor and tourist economy.

Montgomery County believes this is an important endeavor. Therefore, it supports this effort and requests that the Committee do the same, by reporting House Bill 1228 out favorably.

# **HB 1228 Before Senate EEE Victoria Leonard Commit**

Uploaded by: Victoria Leonard

Position: FAV



committee for  
**MONTGOMERY**

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
2 West Miller Senate office Building S  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Victoria Leonard, Chair, Committee for Montgomery on  
HB 1228: Department of Commerce - Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study MC 15-25  
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Feldman and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1228. My name is Victoria Leonard, and I am the 2024/25 Chair of the Committee for Montgomery. The Committee for Montgomery (CfM) is a cross-section of Montgomery County business, labor, education, civic, arts, and community-based organizations. Our mission is to advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State.

CfM supports HB 1228. The bill requires the Maryland Department of Commerce—in coordination with the Montgomery County Planning Board, the Montgomery County Office of Agricultural Services, the University of Maryland Extension – Montgomery County, and Visit Montgomery—to study the tourist and visitor economy of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, to help inform how best to promote and preserve the Ag Reserve. The Department must report its findings to the members of the Montgomery County State Delegation by June 30, 2026. The bill reflects recommendations developed during a local summit that took place last year focused on growing tourism to support small nonprofit organizations and businesses located in the Ag Reserve.

We urge a favorable report on HB 1228.

Sincerely,

Victoria Leonard,  
2024/25 Committee for Montgomery Chair