



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB 162 - Repeal of Cantaloupe Provisions

I am Senator Simonaire presenting SB 162.

I worked with the Department of Agriculture and other stakeholders on this consensus legislation with no known opposition.

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As I researched more, the Department of Agriculture confirmed this entire subtitle was outdated now and that didn't reflect current practice, and the correct action would be to repeal the entire subtitle.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