



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 599

DATE: February 24, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator Hester

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Programs - Established

This bill would establish three related new grant programs designed to help reduce food waste and improve the recycling of organic material in Maryland.

The On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program would award grants for the development and implementation of projects involving on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue.

The Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program would award grants for infrastructure, programs and education that reduce, rescue and divert food waste in Maryland. Local governments would be eligible to receive grants from this program.

The County Wasted Food Reduction Block Grant Program would award grants to counties in proportion to their population for projects to develop, maintain, or expand infrastructure, programs and education that reduce, rescue, and divert food waste in the county.

Each of these grant programs has the potential to benefit residents and local businesses in Maryland while helping to reduce food waste, improve food security, and create positive environmental outcomes. While the bill does not directly allocate funding into any of these grant programs, it represents an important step to establish program priorities and eligibility and sets the stage for future implementation.

We respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 599.