

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**SB599 On-Farm Organics and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant  
Programs - Established  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Position: Favorable**

**Background:** SB599 would establish a grant program to fund projects that aim to reduce food waste in Maryland.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance supports SB599, which would establish a grant program to incentivize and support actions to reduce food waste in Maryland. Efforts to reduce food waste often lead to symbiotic relationships between food retailers and entities like food banks and local farms. Many of our grocery and other food retail members have engaged in contracts and relationships for many years with farms and charitable organizations to divert unsold food products, even before recent State laws drew more attention to the issue. The establishment of a grant award to further incentivize food waste diversion will benefit a variety of industries in Maryland and assist in efforts to find new uses for unsold products within the food retail industry.

We would respectfully urge a favorable vote on SB599. Thank you for your consideration.