



House Bill 272

Food Establishments - Lavatory Requirement and On-Farm Food Service Facility License

February 4, 2026

Position: **INFO**

Madame Chair and Members of the Health Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland had a discussion with the Maryland Department of Health regarding House Bill 272.

Our industry has a strong relationship with the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Maryland's farming community. And we have been a participating partner in the *Governor's Buy Local Cookout* for years.

Through our conversation with the Maryland Department of Health, we learned that they will be inviting a representative from our organization to participate in stakeholder meetings to provide input regarding regulations for an on-farm food service facility. We want to ensure that such regulations are appropriate and do not provide such on-farm food service facilities with an unfair regulatory advantage over competing restaurants/caterers in their areas.

We look forward to working with the Maryland Department of Health and other stakeholders on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy