

SENATE BILL 98

C9

4lr0721

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Salling**

Requested: September 27, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 17, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Department of Housing and Community Development~~ Interagency Food Desert
3 Advisory Committee – Food Desert Study

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Department of Housing and Community Development~~
5 Interagency Food Desert Advisory Committee to conduct a study and make
6 recommendations on reducing the number of food deserts in the State; and generally
7 relating to food deserts.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) In this section, “food desert” has the meaning stated in § 6–301 of the Housing
11 and Community Development Article.

12 (b) The ~~Department of Housing and Community Development~~ Interagency Food
13 Desert Advisory Committee shall:

14 (1) study food deserts in the State; and

15 (2) make recommendations;

16 (i) to reduce the number of food deserts in the State; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (ii) regarding available funding sources for fresh food financing
 2 initiatives and programs in the State.

3 (c) In conducting the study and making the recommendations, the ~~Department~~
 4 Committee shall:

5 (1) review the food desert projects funded under § 6–308.3 of the Housing
 6 and Community Development Article;

7 (2) analyze the location of food deserts in the State; ~~and~~

8 (3) determine the impact of food deserts on the local population and
 9 economy;

10 (4) develop strategies to attract grocery stores and supermarket retailers
 11 to food deserts, including identifying and analyzing anticipated costs; and

12 (5) review existing incentives and available financing programs
 13 throughout the State to encourage the establishment of grocery stores and supermarket
 14 retailers in identified food deserts.

15 (d) On or before November 30, 2024, the ~~Department~~ Committee shall submit a
 16 report of its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
 17 Government Article, to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment,
 18 the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Environment and Transportation
 19 Committee.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 21 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this
 22 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
 23 further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.