

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Housing and Community Development – Food Desert Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to
4 conduct a study and make recommendations on reducing the number of food deserts
5 in the State; and generally relating to food deserts.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

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

10 (b) The Department of Housing and Community Development shall:

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

12 (2) make recommendations to reduce the number of food deserts in the
13 State.

14 (c) In conducting the study and making the recommendations, the Department
15 shall:

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

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

19 (3) determine the impact of food deserts on the local population and
20 economy.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) On or before November 30, 2024, the Department shall submit a report of its
2 findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government
3 Article, to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the
4 House Environment and Transportation Committee.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this
7 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
8 further force and effect.