

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 252 (Delegate Waldstreicher, *et al.*)
 Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program - Maryland Homegrown School Lunch
 Week - Occurrence

This bill requires the Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week to be held twice, rather than once, during the school year. It must be held once in the fall and once in the spring.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$12,000 annually beginning in FY 2016 for promotional materials. Future years reflect inflation. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	12,000	12,100	12,200	12,400	12,500
Net Effect	(\$12,000)	(\$12,100)	(\$12,200)	(\$12,400)	(\$12,500)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local expenditures may increase due to costs of promotional materials, higher food costs during the additional Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, and/or transportation costs.

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful.

Analysis

Current Law: Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week is a part of the Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program, which was established within the Maryland Department of

Agriculture (MDA) pursuant to Chapters 371 and 372 of 2008 for various purposes generally aimed at promoting and facilitating the sale of farm products grown in the State to Maryland schools. The program is charged with establishing, in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), promotional events that promote State agriculture and farm products to children through school meal and classroom programs, including the Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. In addition to school meal and classroom programs, the week must also involve interaction between students and farmers through promotional activities that may include field trips to farms and in-school presentations by farmers.

Background: MDA indicates that all of the public school systems in the State have participated in the Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, which occurs in mid-September. According to MDA estimates, approximately 60 farmers provided Maryland fruits and vegetables for the week in 2014. Nationally, farm-to-school programs exist in 400 school districts in 23 states, including Maryland.

State Expenditures: General fund expenditures increase by \$12,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2016 to develop and send promotional materials to the 24 public school systems for the additional Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. MDA spends approximately \$12,000 of federal grant funding annually on promotional materials for the existing Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. Future years reflect inflation. MSDE can handle the bill's change within existing resources.

Local Expenditures: Local school system expenditures may increase due to costs of promotional materials, higher food costs during the additional Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, and/or transportation costs of any field trips taken. The extent of the increase has not been determined and is subject to the level of activities and purchases undertaken by individual school systems. The Maryland Association of Boards of Education indicates that local school system food service programs operate on a limited budget; while they receive federal funding, they are otherwise generally self-supported by food sales.

Small Business Effect: Small business farmers may be meaningfully impacted by the additional Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. MDA advises that there is expected to be less availability of local farm products in the spring than in the fall, but has identified, based on the 2012 Agricultural Census of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, various operations harvesting leaf lettuce, kale, spinach, asparagus, and strawberries that could potentially supply products for the spring Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 284 (Senator Raskin, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Boards of Education, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2015
mel/lgc

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