

HOUSE BILL 179

C8
HB 1325/21 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0867

By: **Delegate Amprey**

Requested: October 20, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development,
4 the Department of Planning, the Department of Human Services, and the
5 Department of Agriculture to jointly produce a report for each county and each State
6 legislative district on the food environment in the county and district on or before a
7 certain date and at a certain frequency thereafter, and submit the report to the
8 General Assembly; and generally relating to food environments in State legislative
9 districts.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Housing and Community Development

12 Section 6–308.5

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

18 **6–308.5.**

19 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
20 INDICATED.

21 (2) “SNAP” MEANS THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
22 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) “WIC” MEANS THE FEDERAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD**
2 **PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN.**

3 **(B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EVERY 2**
4 **YEARS THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE**
5 **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
6 **SHALL JOINTLY PRODUCE A REPORT FOR EACH COUNTY AND EACH STATE**
7 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ON THE FOOD ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTY AND THE**
8 **DISTRICT.**

9 **(C) THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:**

10 **(1) THE METRICS THAT DETERMINE FOOD INSECURITY ZONES;**

11 **(2) DETAILED METRICS THAT IDENTIFY THE HEALTH FOOD**
12 **AVAILABILITY INDEX FOR EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, TAKING**
13 **INTO ACCOUNT THE DENSITY, POPULATION, AND TRANSPORTATION METHODS USED**
14 **IN EACH COUNTY AND DISTRICT;**

15 **(3) THE NUMBER OF GROCERY STORES AND SUPERMARKETS**
16 **OFFERING FRESH FOOD IN EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT;**

17 **(4) THE NUMBER OF SNAP AND WIC RECIPIENTS IN EACH COUNTY**
18 **AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT; AND**

19 **(5) WHICH STORES ACCEPT PURCHASES MADE WITH SNAP AND WIC**
20 **BENEFITS IN EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.**

21 **(D) IN PRODUCING THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE**
22 **DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN**
23 **SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MAY COLLABORATE WITH:**

24 **(1) ANY UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE;**

25 **(2) ANY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION THAT**
26 **SPECIALIZES IN EQUITY FOR HEALTH AND FOOD PRIORITY AREAS; AND**

27 **(3) ANY LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING OR**
28 **EQUIVALENT DEPARTMENT.**

29 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE**
30 **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
31 **SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE GENERAL**

1 ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
3 1, 2022.