

**SB0124/133523/1**

BY: Delegate Szeliga

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 124  
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 5, after “Council” insert “; requiring the Council to complete a certain study”; in line 9, strike “and” and substitute “;”; and in the same line, after “14–1102” insert “, and 14–1103”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, after line 22, insert:

“14–1103.

(a) The Council shall:

(1) meet regularly for a period of at least 2 years to address food insecurity in the State; and

(2) work toward the following goals:

(i) to address the food insecurity crisis in the State resulting from the COVID–19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis by:

1. coordinating State and local level food insecurity services to support residents of the State;

2. tracking and analyzing data to create a comprehensive map of food insecurity across the State and identify the gaps in service;

3. leveraging federal and private sector grants and other resources in order to address food insecurity needs;

4. advising the State on how best to allocate resources and increase efficiency; and

5. A. exploring the role of and potential for the federal Community Eligibility Provision to ensure all students in the State are fed; and

B. making recommendations to the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland General Assembly to implement relevant findings under item A of this item;

(ii) to develop, on or before November 1, 2021, equity and sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the food system, including:

1. addressing and eliminating racial inequities in the food system;

2. addressing and eliminating diet-related public health disparities;

3. addressing and eliminating food deserts; and

4. reducing food waste, increasing recycling, and encouraging other relevant environmental impacts;

(iii) to expand the impact of existing food council organizations by:

1. providing coordination and facilitation of knowledge exchange at the State level; and

2. supporting identification and application of grants to operating funds to support existing and new food council organizations as needed; and

(iv) to develop, on or before November 1, 2021, a strategic plan to increase the production and procurement of Maryland certified food, including:

1. increasing the quality and quantity of production, as well as aggregation, marketing, and distribution of local food in urban, suburban, and rural settings;

2. increasing procurement of local food through schools, universities, and other institutions;

3. creating additional market opportunities for Maryland food businesses; and

4. expanding access to small scale manufacturing and food production infrastructure.

(b) To advance the goals of the Council, the Council shall engage and collaborate with interested stakeholders, including:

(1) residents of the State with lived experience of food insecurity; and

(2) food council organizations and similar local level food system convening organizations.

**(c) (1) THE COUNCIL SHALL STUDY THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON FOOD SUPPLY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF, AND INCREASE IN, THE NUMBER OF SOLAR FARMS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND.**

(Over)

**(2) THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE STATE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD TARGETS OF 50% FROM TIER 1 RENEWABLE SOURCES BY 2030, AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ACCELERATING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD ON A PATH TO 100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY WITH ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS.**

**(D) (1) On or before November 1, 2021, the Council shall submit an interim report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on key findings and activities undertaken by the Council.**

**(2) On or before November 1, 2022, the Council shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the Council's recommendations for a long term structure for a statewide food policy council including providing recommendations on:**

**(i) appropriate policy and legislative changes;**

**(ii) potential ways to restructure the Council such as:**

**1. placing the Council within a different agency or organization; and**

**2. enacting a sunset provision for the Council; and**

**(iii) any other recommendations of the Council.**

**(3) On or before November 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the Council shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on key findings and activities undertaken by the Council.**