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E4

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1371
CF 5lr1372

By: **Delegate Charkoudian**

Requested: October 25, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Food System Resiliency Council – Definitions and Reports**

3 FOR the purpose of defining “healthy food priority areas” and “wasted food” as they relate
4 to the Food System Resiliency Council; repealing certain outdated reporting
5 requirements and altering certain ongoing reporting requirements; and generally
6 relating to the Food System Resiliency Council.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 14–1101

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 (As enacted by Chapter 49 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2023)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – Public Safety

15 Section 14–1102(a)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article – Public Safety

20 Section 14–1103

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 14-1101.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) “Council” means the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council.

4 (c) “Food council organization” means a local food council organization that is
5 established in the State.

6 (d) **“HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREAS” MEANS PREDOMINANTLY**
7 **LOWER-INCOME AREAS THAT HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO RETAIL OUTLETS THAT**
8 **SELL AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY FOODS.**

9 (E) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Emergency Management.

10 (F) **“WASTED FOOD” MEANS FOOD NOT USED FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE**
11 **THAT IS MANAGED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS, INCLUDING:**

12 (1) **DONATIONS TO FEED PEOPLE;**

13 (2) **THE CREATION OF ANIMAL FEED;**

14 (3) **COMPOSTING;**

15 (4) **ANAEROBIC DIGESTION; OR**

16 (5) **DISPOSAL IN LANDFILLS OR COMBUSTION FACILITIES.**

17 14-1102.

18 (a) There is a Maryland Food System Resiliency Council in the Office of Resilience
19 in the Department.

20 14-1103.

21 (a) The Council shall:

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

24 (2) work toward the following goals:

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

- 1 1. coordinating State and local level food insecurity services
2 to support residents of the State;
- 3 2. tracking and analyzing data to create a comprehensive
4 map of food insecurity across the State and identify the gaps in service;
- 5 3. leveraging federal and private sector grants and other
6 resources in order to address food insecurity needs;
- 7 4. advising the State on how best to allocate resources and
8 increase efficiency; and
- 9 5. A. exploring the role of and potential for the federal
10 Community Eligibility Provision to ensure all students in the State are fed; and
- 11 B. making recommendations to the Maryland State
12 Department of Education and the Maryland General Assembly to implement relevant
13 findings under item A of this item;
- 14 (ii) to develop[, on or before November 1, 2021,] equity and
15 sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the food
16 system, including:
- 17 1. addressing and eliminating racial inequities in the food
18 system;
- 19 2. addressing and eliminating diet-related public health
20 disparities;
- 21 3. addressing and eliminating [food deserts] **LIMITED FOOD**
22 **OPTIONS AND FOOD SCARCITY THAT EXIST IN HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREAS;** and
- 23 4. reducing **WASTED** food [waste], increasing recycling, and
24 encouraging other relevant environmental impacts;
- 25 (iii) to expand the impact of existing food council organizations by:
- 26 1. providing coordination and facilitation of knowledge
27 exchange at the State level; and
- 28 2. supporting identification and application of grants to
29 operating funds to support existing and new food council organizations as needed; and
- 30 (iv) to develop[, on or before November 1, 2021,] **AND**
31 **PERIODICALLY UPDATE** a strategic plan to increase the production and procurement of
32 Maryland certified food, including:

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- 1 1. increasing the quality and quantity of production, as well
2 as aggregation, marketing, and distribution of local food in urban, suburban, and rural
3 settings;
- 4 2. increasing procurement of local food through schools,
5 universities, and other institutions;
- 6 3. creating additional market opportunities for Maryland
7 food businesses; and
- 8 4. expanding access to small scale manufacturing and food
9 production infrastructure.

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

- 12 (1) residents of the State with lived experience of food insecurity; and
- 13 (2) food council organizations and similar local level food system convening
14 organizations.

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

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

- 22 (i) appropriate policy and legislative changes;
- 23 (ii) potential ways to restructure the Council such as:
 - 24 1. placing the Council within a different agency or
25 organization; and
 - 26 2. enacting a sunset provision for the Council; and
- 27 (iii) any other recommendations of the Council.

28 (3)] On or before November 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the Council
29 shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
30 Government Article, on key findings, **APPROPRIATE POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE**
31 **CHANGES**, and activities undertaken by the Council.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2025.