

# HOUSE BILL 9

E4

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1371  
CF 5lr1372

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By: ~~Delegate Charkoudian~~ Delegates Charkoudian, Behler, Boyce, Foley, Lehman, Ruth, and Terrasa

Requested: October 25, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

- 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4 to the Food System Resiliency Council; repealing certain outdated reporting  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

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Public Safety**

6 14–1101.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (3) **COMPOSTING;**

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

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

22 14–1102.

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

25 14–1103.

26 (a) The Council shall:

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

3 (2) work toward the following goals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (ii) to develop[, on or before November 1, 2021,] equity and  
20 sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long–term resiliency of the food  
21 system, including:

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

24 2. addressing and eliminating diet–related public health  
25 disparities;

26 3. addressing and eliminating [food deserts] **LIMITED FOOD**  
27 **OPTIONS AND FOOD SCARCITY THAT EXIST IN HEALTHY FOOD PRIORITY AREAS; and**

28 4. reducing **WASTED** food [waste], increasing recycling, and  
29 encouraging other relevant environmental impacts;

30 **5. IN URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL SETTINGS,**  
31 **INCREASING THE QUANTITY, QUALITY AGGREGATION, MARKETING, AND**  
32 **DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL FOOD;**

1                                    **6. INCREASING THE PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL FOOD**  
 2 **THROUGH SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND OTHER**  
 3 **INSTITUTIONS;**

4                                    **7. CREATING ADDITIONAL MARKET OPPORTUNITIES**  
 5 **FOR MARYLAND FOOD BUSINESSES; AND**

6                                    **8. EXPANDING ACCESS TO SMALL SCALE**  
 7 **MANUFACTURING AND FOOD PRODUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE; AND**

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

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

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

13                                    ~~(iv) to develop [ , on or before November 1, 2021, ] AND~~  
 14 ~~PERIODICALLY UPDATE a strategic plan to increase the production and procurement of~~  
 15 ~~Maryland certified food, including:~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 8 (i) appropriate policy and legislative changes;
- 9 (ii) potential ways to restructure the Council such as:
  - 10 1. placing the Council within a different agency or  
11 organization; and
  - 12 2. enacting a sunset provision for the Council; and
- 13 (iii) any other recommendations of the Council.

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.