

# HOUSE BILL 104

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(PRE-FILED)

51r0028  
CF SB 226

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By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –  
Departmental – Agriculture)**

Requested: October 6, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Farms and Families Fund – Purpose and Use – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the purpose and use of the Maryland Farms and Families  
4 Fund; and generally relating to the Maryland Farms and Families Fund.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
6 Article – Agriculture  
7 Section 10–2001 and 10–2002  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Agriculture  
12 Section 10–2003 and 10–2004  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

### Article – Agriculture

18 10–2001.

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

20 (b) “FMNP” means the federal Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) “Fund” means the Maryland Farms and Families Fund.

2 (d) “Program” means the Maryland Farms and Families Program.

3 (e) “SNAP” means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

4 (f) “WIC” means the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women,  
5 Infants, and Children.

6 10–2002.

7 (a) There is a Maryland Farms and Families Program in the Department.

8 (b) The purpose of the Program is to double the purchasing power of food–insecure  
9 Maryland residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to increase  
10 revenue for farmers through redemption of federal nutrition benefits at Maryland farmers  
11 markets.

12 10–2003.

13 (a) There is a Maryland Farms and Families Fund.

14 (b) The purpose of the Fund is [to provide grants] to:

15 (1) [Nonprofit organizations that match] **MATCH** purchases made with  
16 FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits at participating farmers markets and farm stands;

17 (2) [Nonprofit] **SUPPORT NONPROFIT** farmers markets to implement the  
18 Program [at the farmers markets] **BY PROVIDING LOGISTICAL AND MARKETING**  
19 **SUPPORT TO INCREASE THE USE OF FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS AT THESE**  
20 **FARMERS MARKETS;** and

21 (3) [Local] **SUPPORT** nonprofit organizations **AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE**  
22 **PERSONS** to implement the Program in partnership with one or more participating local  
23 farmers markets.

24 (c) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

25 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of  
26 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

27 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
28 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

29 (e) The Fund consists of:

1 (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

2 (2) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the  
3 Fund.

4 (f) (1) In accordance with this subsection, **THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE** the  
5 Fund [shall be used to provide grants] **FOR EITHER ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING**  
6 **PURPOSES:**

7 (i) [Nonprofit organizations that:] **TO IMPLEMENT, IN WHOLE OR**  
8 **IN PART, THE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

9 [1. Meet the qualifications established in § 10–2004 of this  
10 subtitle; and

11 2. Distribute the grant money to farmers markets and local  
12 nonprofit organizations in accordance with this subtitle;]

13 (ii) [Nonprofit farmers markets to implement the Program at the  
14 farmers markets; and] **TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO A QUALIFIED NONPROFIT**  
15 **ORGANIZATION OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO IMPLEMENT, IN WHOLE OR IN**  
16 **PART, THE PROGRAM.**

17 [(iii) Local nonprofit organizations to implement the Program in  
18 partnership with one or more local farmers markets.]

19 (2) A qualified nonprofit organization **OR OTHER PERSON** that receives [a  
20 grant] **FUNDS** under this section:

21 (i) Shall distribute at least 60% of the [grant] money it receives  
22 directly to participating farmers markets as funding for local market access coordinators  
23 and matching dollars for purchases made with FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits; and

24 (ii) May not use more than 40% of the [grant] money it receives for  
25 Program development, promotion and outreach, farmers market training and capacity  
26 building, technical assistance, program data collection, evaluation, administration, and  
27 reporting.

28 (g) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Governor shall include  
29 in the annual budget bill an appropriation to the Fund as follows:

30 (i) For fiscal years 2021 through 2023, \$100,000; and

31 (ii) For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$300,000.

1           (2)     The appropriation required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall  
2 be in addition to, and may not supplant, any funding appropriated to the [Marketing and  
3 Promotion Division] **AGRICULTURE AND SEAFOOD MARKETING PROGRAM** in the  
4 Department.

5 10–2004.

6           (a)     (1)     A nonprofit organization **OR OTHER PERSON** is qualified to receive [a  
7 grant] **FUNDS** in accordance with this subtitle if the Department determines that the  
8 [nonprofit] organization **OR PERSON** has a demonstrated record of:

9                     (i)     Designing and implementing successful healthy food incentive  
10 programs that connect federal food benefits recipients with local producers;

11                     (ii)    Implementing funds distributing and reporting processes;

12                     (iii)   Providing training and technical assistance to farmers markets;

13                     (iv)    Conducting community outreach and data collection, including  
14 customer surveys; and

15                     (v)     Providing a full accounting and administration of funds  
16 distributed to farmers markets.

17           (2)     In addition to the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection,  
18 in awarding [a grant] **FUNDS** in accordance with this subtitle, the Department may  
19 consider whether the [nonprofit] organization **OR PERSON** has a demonstrated record of  
20 providing services in healthy food priority areas.

21           (b)     Within 90 days after the end of a [grant cycle] **CALENDAR YEAR**, [a qualified  
22 nonprofit] **AN** organization **OR PERSON** that received [a grant] **FUNDS** in accordance with  
23 this subtitle shall submit a report to the Department that includes the following  
24 information:

25                     (1)     The names and locations of Maryland farmers markets that received  
26 funds under the Program;

27                     (2)     The dollar amount of funds awarded to each participating farmers  
28 market;

29                     (3)     The dollar amount of FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits, and funds  
30 provided under the Program that were spent at participating farmers markets, as well as  
31 any unspent funds;

32                     (4)     The number of FMNP, SNAP, and WIC transactions carried out at  
33 participating farmers markets; and

1                   (5)     The impact of the Program on increasing the quantity of fresh fruits  
2 and vegetables consumed by FMNP, SNAP, and WIC families, as determined by customer  
3 surveys.

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