

# SENATE BILL 226

M4

(5lr0027)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Finance/Environment and Transportation —

Introduced by **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request – Departmental – Agriculture)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 1-101(a) and (g), 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

---

### 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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2016 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 – Agriculture**

6 1–101.

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

8 (g) “Person” includes the State, any county, municipal corporation or other  
9 political subdivision of the State, or any of their units, or an individual, receiver, trustee,  
10 guardian, executor, administrator, fiduciary, or representative of any kind, or any  
11 partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, or any other entity, unless  
12 otherwise provided.

13 10–2001.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 10–2002.

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

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

27 10–2003.

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

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

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

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

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

10 (c) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

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

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

15 (e) The Fund consists of:

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

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

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

22 (i) [Nonprofit organizations that:

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

25 2. Distribute the grant money to farmers markets and local  
26 nonprofit organizations in accordance with this subtitle;] **TO IMPLEMENT, IN WHOLE OR**  
27 **IN PART, THE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT; AND**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 10–2004.

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

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

26 (ii) Implementing funds distributing and reporting processes;

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

28 (iv) Conducting community outreach and data collection, including  
29 customer surveys; and

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

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

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

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

11 (2) The dollar amount of funds awarded to each participating farmers  
12 market;

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

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

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

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

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.