

SENATE BILL 226

M4

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0027
CF HB 104

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

Requested: October 6, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Finance

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.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

5 10–2002.

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

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

11 10–2003.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (c) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

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

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

28 (e) The Fund consists of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (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.