

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 1434

(Delegate Amprey, *et al.*)

Environment and Transportation

Finance

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**Maryland Food System Resiliency Council - Healthy Food Priority Area Study**

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This bill requires the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council to (1) conduct an assessment of strategies to attract and retain grocery stores and supermarket retailers in “healthy food priority areas,” including a review of existing incentives and available financing programs in the State and other states, and (2) prepare a report on its findings and recommendations, as specified. By December 31, 2025, the council must submit the report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and specified committees of the General Assembly. The bill defines “healthy food priority area” as a predominantly low-income area that has limited access to retail outlets that sell affordable, healthy foods. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025, and terminates June 30, 2026.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$50,000 only in FY 2026 to hire a consultant to conduct the assessment and develop the report. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	50,000	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$50,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapters 724 and 725 of 2021 established the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council and required it to meet regularly for a period of at least two years to address food insecurity in the State. Chapters 573 and 574 of 2023 established the council as part of the Office of Resilience within (and staffed by) the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). The council must pursue specified goals, including addressing the food insecurity crisis in the State resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis by, among other things, (1) tracking and analyzing data to create a comprehensive map of food insecurity across the State and identify the gaps in service; (2) developing specified equity and sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the food system; (3) expanding the impact of existing food council organizations by providing coordination and facilitation of knowledge exchange at the State level and supporting identification and application of grants to operating funds to support existing and new food council organizations; and (4) developing a strategic plan to increase the production and procurement of Maryland certified food. The council's [fourth annual report](#) includes a discussion on food access priority areas.

**State Expenditures:** MDEM advises that while the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council studies healthy food priority areas, it does not research strategies to attract and retain grocery stores and supermarket retailers in healthy food priority areas or related financing programs. As such, it does not have the expertise needed to conduct the required assessment and develop the required report. Therefore, general fund expenditures increase by \$50,000 only in fiscal 2026 for MDEM to hire a consultant to conduct the required assessment and complete the required report by December 31, 2025.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 353 (Senators Salling and Watson) - Finance.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Health; Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2025  
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