

HOUSE BILL 936

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6lr0853

By: Montgomery County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County Public Schools – Local Food Procurement**

3 **MC 7-26**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Montgomery County public school system to identify and
5 publish certain data on food procured during a certain school year from certified local
6 farms and certified Chesapeake invasive species providers; requiring the
7 Montgomery County public school system to set certain targets for certain school
8 years; requiring the Montgomery County public school system, in coordination with
9 the Office of Food Systems Resilience and public input, to establish a certain plan;
10 and generally relating to food procured for Montgomery County Public Schools from
11 certified local farms and Chesapeake invasive species providers.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 4-148

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

18 Article – State Finance and Procurement

19 Section 14-701(a) through (d)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4-148.

2 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

3 (B) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
4 INDICATED.

5 (2) "CERTIFIED CHESAPEAKE INVASIVE SPECIES PROVIDER" HAS
6 THE MEANING STATED IN § 14-701 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
7 ARTICLE.

8 (3) "CERTIFIED LOCAL FARM" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 14-701
9 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

10 (C) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY
11 PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL:

12 (1) IDENTIFY THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS OF FOOD PROCURED FOR
13 SCHOOL MEALS IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR FROM CERTIFIED LOCAL FARMS
14 AND CERTIFIED CHESAPEAKE INVASIVE SPECIES PROVIDERS; AND

15 (2) PUBLISH THAT DATA ON THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S WEBSITE.

16 (D) (1) THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SET
17 TARGET INCREASES FOR THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF FOOD PROCURED FROM
18 CERTIFIED LOCAL FARMS AND CERTIFIED CHESAPEAKE INVASIVE SPECIES
19 PROVIDERS FOR THE 2028-2029, 2030-2031, 2031-2032, 2033-2034, AND
20 2036-2037 SCHOOL YEARS USING THE DATA IDENTIFIED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF
21 THIS SECTION AS A BASELINE.

22 (2) THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, IN COORDINATION WITH THE OFFICE OF
23 FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE AND PUBLIC INPUT, SHALL ESTABLISH A PLAN TO
24 MEET THE TARGET INCREASES ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
25 SUBSECTION.

26 Article – State Finance and Procurement

27 14-701.

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

29 (b) "Certified Chesapeake invasive species" means a finfish species that is:

(1) ranked as high priority in the Maryland Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan; and

3 (2) harvested from the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.

4 (c) "Certified Chesapeake invasive species provider" means a person licensed and
5 authorized as a seafood dealer under § 4-701 of the Natural Resources Article that:

8 (2) can demonstrate that the person's product is a certified Chesapeake
9 invasive species.

10 (d) "Certified local farm" means a local farm enterprise that:

11 (1) meets the nutrient management requirements established under Title
12 8, Subtitle 8 of the Agriculture Article; and

13 (2) is certified by the Department in accordance with regulations adopted
14 under this subtitle.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2026.