

Chapter 805

(House Bill 936)

AN ACT concerning

Montgomery County Public Schools – Jane E. Lawton Local Food Procurement

MC 7–26

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

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 4–148

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Finance and Procurement

Section 14–701(a) through (d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

4–148.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

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

(2) “CERTIFIED CHESAPEAKE INVASIVE SPECIES PROVIDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 14–701 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

14-701.

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

(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

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

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

(1) is certified by the Department in accordance with regulations adopted under this subtitle; and

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 26, 2026.