

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 1023  
Health

(Delegate Rose, *et al.*)

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Lab-Grown Meat - Prohibition

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This bill prohibits a person in the State from selling, offering to sell, distributing, or manufacturing “lab-grown meat” for human consumption. A person that violates this prohibition is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 to be collected in a civil action in any District Court. The Secretary of Health may seize or condemn lab-grown meat sold, offered for sale, distributed, or manufactured in violation of the bill.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) can handle enforcement with existing budgeted resources. The application of penalty provisions is not anticipated to materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to have a material impact on local governments. To the extent that local health departments must inspect food products sold in licensed food establishments, expenditures may increase beginning in FY 2027. The application of penalty provisions is not anticipated to materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** “Lab-grown meat” means meat or a meat product that contains animal tissue cultured from animal cells outside the animal from which the tissue is derived.

**Current Law:** MDH’s Center for Food Processing is responsible for licensing and inspecting facilities that make, process, store, hold, or distribute food to sell wholesale to

other businesses in Maryland. The Center for Facility and Process Review conducts a plan and process review for all food processing plants and prototypical food service facilities. Food processing plans are inspected to ensure compliance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations. Facilities that manufacture, process, pack, and hold food and operate (receive or distribute) across state lines fall under U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) jurisdiction and must comply with federal regulations.

The federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act prohibits the manufacture or sale of any food that is adulterated or misbranded. The Food Additives Amendment to the Act authorizes FDA to regulate food ingredients. MDH implements the Maryland Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which conforms to the federal Act.

A person who violates any Maryland Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act prohibition, with specified exceptions, is subject to both criminal and civil penalties. More specifically, a violator is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, subject to a fine up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to a year for the first conviction, and a fine of up to \$25,000 and imprisonment for up to three years for a second or subsequent conviction. In addition, a person who violates the Maryland Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 in an action in any District Court and can be enjoined from continuing the violation. Each day that a violation occurs is a separate violation.

**Additional Comments:** According to the [National Conference of State Legislators](#), several states have enacted legislation addressing lab-grown meat.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2026  
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