



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: **Senate Bill 478**
Maryland Green Purchasing Committee
Food Procurement - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 19, 2020

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 478 –Maryland Green Purchasing Committee – Food Procurement – Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

Senate Bill 478 would require the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC), chaired and staffed by the DGS, in consultation with the Department of the Environment to:

- Develop a methodology to estimate greenhouse gas emissions for foods procured by State units;
- Establish a baseline of annual greenhouse gas emission for the State’s food procurement;
- Establish best practices for State units to reduce greenhouse gasses associated with food procurement; and
- Issue an annual report.

Further, the bill would requires the DGS to:

- Establish a goal to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions associated with food purchased by state food procurements by a schedule of:
 - 10% by 2024;
 - 18% by 2027; and
 - 25% by 2030.

In order to comply with the requirements above, the DGS will realize both operational and fiscal impacts and would necessitate employing one full time program manager and one consultant to provide subject matter expertise. The DGS notes that the annual reporting deadline from agencies to the GPC of August 1 would be challenging to meet considering fiscal year-end closeout may not occur until mid-August or later, thus reporting from agencies may not occur until after the August 1 deadline. A more realistic date of October 1 for agencies to report to the GPC and December 31 for the GPC annual reporting deadline would allow adequate time to collect data from agencies, edit and verify, and issue the report.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.

