

HB 1487 ag education 3.4.2020

Uploaded by: Clevenger, Amanda

Position: FAV



John Hartline, Chair

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Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

POSITION STATEMENT

House Bill 1487 – Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs
Ways and Means Committee
Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2020

The Rural Maryland Council **SUPPORTS** House 1487 – Public Schools – Agricultural Education Programs. This bill requires each county board of education to implement an agricultural science curriculum in at least one public high school and one career and technology education center. The curriculum will focus on opportunities in agriculture by providing instruction and developing skills in certain areas through integrated classroom and laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural and leadership experiences. Additionally, this bill will establish the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program with the main purpose to increase access to agricultural education in the state.

Agriculture is the leading commercial industry in the state-employing approximately 350,000 people, including nearly 6,000 full-time farmers. It is the largest single land use in the State, with nearly 2 million acres of working landscapes (approximately 32% of total land area is used for farming). Agriculture works in both rural and urban areas-while the majority of Maryland's farmland lies in the north-central part of the State and the upper Eastern Shore, about 20 urban farms thrive in Baltimore City. According to a report released by the Business Economic and Community Outreach Network at Salisbury University, with the support of the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industries Development Corporation, agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture accounts for \$19.6 billion dollars and \$753 million dollars in state and local tax revenue in the state. Today, Maryland's agriculture industry is strong, but tomorrow this may change if steps are not taken now to support it.

American Farmland Trust coined the simple but poignant message, "No farms, No food", with the purpose of elevating America's farms as they provide an unparalleled abundance of fresh, healthy, and local food but also stressing the critical fact that farms are rapidly disappearing. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, there has been a 30% increase of farmers over the age of 75 and a 20% decrease of farmers under the age of 25. Furthermore, as these farmers retire or pass away, their land is often sold for development. The aging farmer populations, coupled with a growing demand for an agricultural workforce, and the threat of losing farmland to development, has led to a critical need to support the *farmers of tomorrow* through agricultural education curriculum in public schools.

In order to keep agricultural viable in Maryland, we need a robust agricultural education program. SB986 will strengthen the state's agriculture community by providing students with the tools, education, and experience needed to not only have access to successful careers in this essential industry, but to have a greater understanding and appreciation for it as well.

The Council respectfully requests your favorable support of HB 1487.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, economic and community development organizations, for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information, and address in a more holistic way the special needs and opportunities in Rural Maryland

"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"

HB1487_AgEdPrograms_HearingDoc

Uploaded by: Delegate Shoemaker, Delegate Shoemaker

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Support HB1487

Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs

Ways & Means Committee and Appropriations Committee

- This bill codifies the definition of agriculture education in Maryland public schools
- It will require local school systems to adopt and use the definition in their existing agricultural education programs or when creating a new program
- This bill would require at least one public high school or one career and technology education center in each county to establish an agriculture science curriculum
- In addition, this bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY2022 of \$785,000 in order to establish the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program
- The MD State Department of Education may award grants to local boards of education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities for specified purposes

HB1487 MWA Testimony

Uploaded by: Dumais, Brig

Position: FAV

MARYLAND WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

HB1487

Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs
Position: FAVORABLE

Madame Chair Kaiser and Members of the Ways & Means Committee:

My name is Brig Dumais and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Workforce Alliance, a statewide membership organization of 36 trade associations, labor unions, and apprenticeship providers. Our members are from all sectors including but not limited to healthcare, automotive, transportation, clean energy, maritime, state employees, service workers, agriculture, cybersecurity, IT, building trades, and more. The Alliance's long term goals are to:

- 1) Double the percent of high school graduates with marketable skills by 2025 through the expansion of high-quality CTE and Youth Apprenticeship programs;
- 2) Expand the percentage of apprenticeship programs in Maryland to approach the average of competitor nations, such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia;
- 3) Expand state investment in skills training to levels more comparable to current investment in college preparatory programs;
- 4) Increase high school students' awareness of high skill, high wage careers, and the pathways to obtaining them

We encourage a favorable report on HB1487, establishing the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program and requiring county boards of education to implement robust agricultural education programs, and we suggest expanding the registered apprenticeship model in agriculture education. There are currently only 65 youth

participating in registered youth apprenticeship programs in Maryland, and we need to significantly increase that number. HB1487 will help achieve that goal. The more sectors that offer workforce training to high school students, the more career paths young people will be able to pursue in high-wage, high-growth sectors. Agriculture is an especially important industry to support with grant programs and implement a strong curriculum because modern agriculture is multifaceted, involving many different industries than only farming. Investing in agricultural education sets a strong precedent for other industries to expand their workforce training efforts. A highly trained workforce will attract and retain businesses in Maryland, helping to build a strong economy for all.

We thank the Committee for your time and consideration, and we request you issue a favorable report on HB1487.

Respectfully,
Brigette Dumais
Executive Director
MD Workforce Alliance
443-985-8833, brigette.dumais.mwa@gmail.com
mdworkforcealliance.com

Support of HB 1487_MFB

Uploaded by: Ferguson, Colby

Position: FAV



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 4, 2020

To: House Ways & Means Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of HB 1487 - Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of HB 1487, legislation that defines a Certified Ag Education program in Maryland public schools and requires local school programs to adopt and use this definition in their existing Ag education programs or when they are creating new Ag education programs. Each local board of education is required to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for:

(1) successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices relating to global agriculture, food, fiber, and natural resources systems; and (2) a wide range of opportunities in agriculture–related employment and higher education by providing instruction and developing skills in science, math, technology, communications, leadership, and management through integrated: (i) classroom and laboratory instruction relating to agriculture, food, and natural resources; (ii) supervised agricultural experiences (SAE), which may include service or work–based learning; and (iii) leadership experiences and involvement in student organizations with an agricultural focus (FFA).

In addition, the department may award grants to county boards, nonprofit organizations, and other entities to compensate teachers for working extra duty days to enable students to participate in agricultural education programs and activities; provide funding for students who are enrolled in agricultural education courses to pay dues and participate in the Maryland FFA association; provide teacher development and training, including attendance at summer training conferences; and maintain existing agricultural education programs and implement new department–approved agricultural education programs in public schools in the state. The bill requires the governor to include an appropriation of \$785,000 to the program each fiscal year starting in fiscal year 2022.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 1487

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

HB1487_DPI_FAV_HP

Uploaded by: Porter, Holly

Position: FAV



DELMARVA POULTRY INDUSTRY, INC.

16686 COUNTY SEAT HIGHWAY • GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE 19947-4881
PHONE: 302-856-9037 E-MAIL: dpi@dpichicken.com
www.dpichicken.org

Date: March 4, 2020
To: Members of the House Ways & Means Committee
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 1487 – Public Schools – Agricultural Education & Grant Programs - **Support**

Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc. (DPI), the 1,700-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports HB 1487 and urges a favorable committee report.

HB 1487 would require the county board of education to implement an agriculture science curriculum and an ag education program that would prepare students for successful careers and opportunities related to agriculture. This bill would also create a grant program to increased access to agricultural education in the state and encouraging participation by students in Maryland Future Farmers of America program and to pay teachers who are already going above and beyond to work on those programs into the summer months.

Nationally there are hundreds of thousands of agriculturally related jobs that go unfilled, in part because students are not aware of the career opportunities that exist. On Maryland's Eastern Shore there are more than 4,500 jobs directly tied to the chicken industry, and only 600 chicken growers. Our chicken companies and allied businesses are looking for students with skills and knowledge in biology, chemistry, math, engineering, networking, management, communications and everything in between. There are many opportunities in agriculture in our state, but students are not aware. Today, agriculture is a high-tech system involving skills related to most every discipline. I myself was a communications major in college – nothing at all specific to an agricultural degree.

There is already a great structure in place to help with promoting agriculture in the classroom – the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation. They have all the tools that any school would need to easily include agriculture in the curriculum. This bill would provide the guidance for that access.

Enactment of HB 1487 will show support by the Maryland General Assembly for Maryland's number one industry – agriculture. And would encourage it to remain by giving students exposure to the tremendous career opportunities that exist right now and right here in our state and help steer them to an industry that is here for years to come.

We urge a favorable vote on HB 1487.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dpichicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.

MHC_FAV_HB1487

Uploaded by: Seigler, Jane

Position: FAV

RE: HB 1487 - Public Schools - Agricultural Education and Grant Programs

Maryland Horse Council - SUPPORT

House Ways and Means Committee, March 4, 2020



The Maryland Horse Council is the membership-based, umbrella trade association of the entire horse industry in Maryland. Our membership includes horse farms, horse related businesses, individual enthusiasts, and breed, interest and discipline associations. As such, we stand for over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or just own and love them.

The Maryland horse industry comprises 16,000 horse farms and stables covering 25% of Maryland's agricultural land and directly involving 28,000 jobs. In addition there are numerous businesses and services that support the horse industry, such as veterinarians, farriers, tack and equipment stores, hay growers, etc.

This robust industry is reliant on a well-educated and prepared workforce, ready to take on active, productive roles in the industry. Therefore, the Horse Council enthusiastically supports HB 1487 - Public Schools - Agricultural Education and Grant Programs, and urges the Committee to give it a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

The Maryland Horse Council
(844) MDHORSE (844-634-6773)

MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL
PO BOX 606
LISBON, MD 21765

HB1487 MCPSBOE

Uploaded by: SUSSKIND, MCPS BOE

Position: UNF



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

850 Hungerford Drive ♦ Room 123 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850

BILL: HB1487 (Cross filed with SB0986)
TITLE: Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs
DATE: 3/4/2020
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs
[Danielle M Susskind @mcpsmd.org](mailto:Danielle.M.Susskind@mcpsmd.org)

The Montgomery County Board of Education (Board) **opposes** HB1487.

House Bill 1487 requires each county board of education to implement a certain agriculture science curriculum and an agricultural education program that prepares students for certain careers and informed choices in a certain manner. HB1487 would also establish the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program, requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of \$785,000 to the Program for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

While the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system supports agricultural programs and agricultural science, the method and curriculum for this subject is the purview of the local board of education. MCPS always welcomes any materials that advocates would like to share around this important topic, but do not support the state mandating the curriculum or the implementation of the program. Local school boards are best positioned to make determinations about curricula and academic programming.

For these reasons, the Board **opposes** this legislation and urges an unfavorable report

HB 1487_Written

Uploaded by: dove, tina

Position: INFO

**Informational Testimony regarding House Bill 1487
Public Schools—Agricultural Education and Grant Programs**

**Ways and Means Committee
March 4, 2020**

**Tina N. Dove, M.Ed.
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association offers this informational testimony on House Bill 1487, legislation that would require each county board of education to implement an agriculture science curriculum and an agriculture education program. It also requires the Maryland State Department of Education to implement and administer a Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program, which would be funded through an annual budget appropriation.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports efforts to expand learning opportunities for our students, particularly ones that allow young people to extend their learning outside of the classroom in fun and engaging ways. Agricultural education programs and activities such as Future Farmers of America and 4-H allow for such learning. We also support career and technical education (CTE), believing that it provides students with important skills and career opportunities so they can better compete in the Maryland economy. We support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and its effort to expand access to CTE programs so that more students can take advantage of these types of opportunities. Maryland's rich agricultural history and our robust agricultural landscape create numerous pathways by which students who participate in agricultural education and CTE programs can pursue a postsecondary career in an agricultural-related. Understanding the important role agriculture plays in many of Maryland's Eastern Shore counties, we appreciate the sponsor's desire to expand access to this program of study.

However, MSEA has a longstanding position in opposition to legislatively mandating curriculum and programs of study. We believe that it is the purview of the MSDE and the State Board of Education to develop and implement curriculum standards in order to meet the academic needs of the students served in Maryland's public schools. It is then the responsibility of local districts to determine how best to implement a program of study that best serves the needs of their students. Current statute allows local boards of education to implement agricultural science curriculum if they wish, and those who have desired to do so have taken advantage of said opportunity. Those seeking to do so in the future are empowered to follow suit. As such, we neither believe it to be wise nor necessary to mandate that such steps be taken at the state level.

HB 1487_DBM_INFO

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

**HOUSE BILL 1487 Public Schools – Agricultural Education and Grant Programs
(Shoemaker, et al)**

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 4, 2020

**COMMITTEE: House Ways & Means Committee and House Appropriations
Committee**

SUMMARY OF BILL: HB 1487 mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$785,000 to the Department of Education for the Maryland Agricultural Education Grant Program. The Department awards grants to county boards of education, nonprofit organizations, and other entities for the purpose of increasing access to agricultural education.

EXPLANATION: DBM’s focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the mandated appropriation provisions.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and strives to create a structurally balanced budget, in which the growth in spending is less than the growth in revenues.

**General Fund Budget Outlook
Fiscal 2022 - 2025**

	Est. 2022	Est. 2023	Est. 2024	Est. 2025
Cash Balance	-\$833	-\$1,135	-\$1,201	-\$1,298
Structural Balance	-\$701	-\$905	-\$984	-\$1,071

Department of Legislative Services, January 2020 Fiscal Briefing

For FY 22 – FY 25, the cumulative impact of an ongoing imbalance between spending and revenues is a \$3.6 billion structural gap. Our structural budget problem reflects a spending problem; not a revenue problem.

Until we achieve long-term structural balance, programs cannot rely on a consistent funding level. Constituencies for these proposed programs or enhanced spending bills should be forewarned that passage of this legislation does not guarantee future funding. The diversion of General Funds may be repealed or otherwise modified in a subsequent Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) – this action is necessary to ensure a constitutionally required balanced budget in the next fiscal year.

The Administration is cognizant of the downside risks facing our economy and, in the FY 2021 Budget, has set aside \$1.3 billion in reserves. The Rainy Day Fund balance is equal to 6.25% of revenues, \$48 million more than recommended by the Spending Affordability Committee (SAC). Moody's Analytics has recently advised of a slowdown in employment growth in the latter part of FY 2021, which DLS estimates would add \$241 million to the structural budget gap in FY 2021 and \$419 million in FY 2022. Historic increases in funding for both K-12 education, as proposed by the Kirwan Commission, and school construction will further aggravate the budget gap.

The 2019 SAC commentary encourages a cautious fiscal approach -- **“Out-year fiscal stress is anticipated despite the expectation that personal income and employment will continue to grow steadily, and entitlement and prison caseloads will hold steady or decline. An imbalance is forecast before accounting for any recommendations from the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.”**

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
(410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov**