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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: **House Bill 317**
Maryland Green Purchasing Committee
Food and Beverage Procurement - Greenhouse Gas Emissions

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations

DATE: January 21, 2021

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of House Bill 317 – Maryland Green Purchasing Committee – Food and Beverage Procurement – Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

House Bill 317 requires the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC), *chaired, and staffed by DGS* and in consultation with other agencies, to:

- Develop a methodology to track greenhouse gas emissions associated with food and beverage purchases, including those provided through third-party vendors.
- Establish a baseline.
- Develop strategies and recommendations.
- Reduce emissions associated with food and beverage procurements by 25% by 2030; and
- Produce interim and annual reports.

Over the past year, the GPC has made advances in collecting detailed procurement data directly from vendors to report more comprehensively on Maryland's green purchasing activities. The GPC has also started to work with Agencies to assist them in fulfilling their green purchasing reporting requirements. The format and approach developed and refined for tracking green purchasing data may be adapted for the tracking and reporting of food and beverage procurement data.

While the process of collecting data from vendors and agencies may be easier than in years past, there will still be a large volume of data to track and analyze. The GPC Chairperson and Staff have already seen their responsibilities grow substantially in the past year. A full-time **Sustainable Food and Beverage Coordinator** is required to assist with data collection, compilation, tracking, and reporting of detailed food procurement data. DGS estimates that the cost of the Coordinator to be **\$64,329 in FY22** and rise to **\$83,325 in FY26**. The Coordinator would also work closely with vendors to receive data monthly, scrub and verify data, apply greenhouse gas emissions factors and methodologies approved by the Committee, and coordinate and edit the Annual Report.

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

