



Committee: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 179 – Food Insecurity Zones - State Legislative Districts – Reports

Hearing Date: March 31, 2022

Position: Support

Moveable Feast supports *House Bill 179 – Food Insecurity Zones – State Legislative Districts – Reports*. The bill requires the development of food insecurity zones every two years by the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning.

Moveable Feast provides medically tailored meals to individuals with life threatening illnesses, including cancer and HIV. Many of our clients live in food deserts without access to fresh produce and other healthy foods. Our services provide a lifeline for clients who need special diets to address their clinical conditions.

To improve the overall health of Marylanders, our state needs to take a more planful approach to addressing food insecurity, including the lack of consistent access to healthy food sources. With the reports created under this legislation, each jurisdiction will be able to use the data to plan and implement solutions to address food insecurity in their communities.

Under the bill, State agencies must consult with non-profits that focus on food insecurity issues. Moveable Feast stands ready to support State agencies and other stakeholders in preparing and utilizing the reports to improve the health of Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

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Feast is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, contributions to which are tax-deductible. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by contacting our accounting office. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 for the cost of copying and postage.