
MARYLAND ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS



Date: March 30, 2022

Bill: House Bill 156 - Local Governments – Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones – Authorization

Committee: Senate Education, Health and environmental Affairs Committee
The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair

Position: Support

The Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) represents nearly 1200 Registered & Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists in the state who work in a variety of facilities and agencies to provide education related to nutrition for the benefit of the health our citizens.

We thank Delegate Queen for Sponsoring **HB0156: Local Governments – Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones – Authorization**. We all know that COVID had a huge effect on Food Deserts and with that thought you established the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council. Last month the Maryland Food Bank estimated that 1 in 3 Maryland citizens was food insecure.

This bill would do so much to identify ongoing Food Deserts and address the needs of our Food Insecure Citizens. Agricultural Incentive Zones would provide citizens in Food Deserts with much needed fruits and vegetables to ensure a healthy diet. We believe the Non-Profits can also involve affected citizens with some farming experiences that will help educate them in all kinds of ways.

Please let MAND know if a Registered & Licensed Dietitian/Nutritionists can be added to this program to provide nutrition education to Non-profits and citizens. MAND Dietitian/Nutritionists urge you to pass **House Bill 156**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan O'Malley, MS, RD, LDN
MAND State Policy Representative

Teresa L. Turner, MS, RD, LDN, SNS, FAND
MAND President & School Nutrition Specialist