

An Affiliate of  
the Maryland Association  
of Counties, Inc.



DATE: February 23, 2023

TO: Members, Education, Energy, and the Environment

FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors  
Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO)

RE: SB 778 – Wicomico County – Seasonal Restaurants – Potable Running Water and Graywater

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (the Conference) and the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO) **OPPOSE SB 778** allowing a seasonal restaurant to operate without providing potable running water to customers.

According to the 2022 FDA Food Code, one of the major risk factors related to employee behaviors and preparation practices in retail and food service establishments contributing to illness is **poor personal hygiene**. Exempting a seasonal restaurant from providing potable running water to properly wash hands only increases those risks for foodborne illness.

Furthermore, the Code of Maryland Regulations addresses controls for risk factors and further establishes public health interventions to protect consumer health. Current statutes ensure that all food establishments in Maryland are operated and maintained in a manner that assures all food is prepared and served under conditions necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, SB 776 severely undermines the purpose for both regulation and statute pertaining to Food Service Facilities.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee given **SB 778** an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter. If you have further questions concerning this written testimony, please contact:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Cumers".

Matt Cumers, President  
Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors  
410-535-3922x114  
[Matthew.cumers@maryland.gov](mailto:Matthew.cumers@maryland.gov)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Maiorana".

Ruth Maiorana, Executive Director  
Maryland Association of County Health Officers  
410-937-1433  
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