

There are a few amendments needed to ensure the bill matches with legislation passed in other states and creates a clear and consistent regulatory framework. I request that the committee:

- 1) Add a purpose statement to clarify the intent of the bill

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CONSUMERS, INCLUDING TO PROMOTE FOOD SAFETY, PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ADVANCE ANIMAL WELFARE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE REGULATION OF EGG PRODUCTION ON FARMS AND THE SALE OF EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS WILL FURTHER THESE GOALS.

- 2) Clarify the definition of "egg products" to remain consistent with the existing regulatory framework

(3) "EGG PRODUCTS" DOES NOT INCLUDE COMBINATION FOOD PRODUCTS THAT ARE COMPOSED OF MORE THAN JUST EGG, SUGAR, SALT, WATER, SEASONING, COLORING, FLAVORING, PRESERVATIVES, STABILIZERS, AND SIMILAR FOOD ADDITIVES.

I am also very open to a discussion around a slight adjustment to the implementation date as well as adding incentives to help farmers adjust their housing to accommodate this requirement. However, those discussions need to be within the framework of a clear mandate that ensures better welfare standards for chickens and makes safer food more affordable for Maryland families.