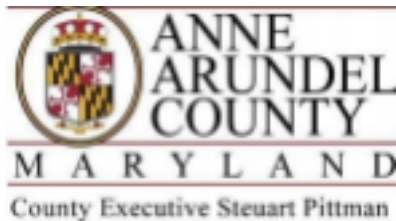


**Anne Arundel County \_FAV\_SB131 (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Ethan Hunt

Position: FAV



January 15, 2025

## **Senate Bill 131**

### **Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit - Supermarkets Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

#### **Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 131 – Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit - Supermarkets. This enabling legislation would authorize the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant a property tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on personal property of a supermarket that completes certain construction and is located in a food desert retail incentive area. It also requires the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit and provide the parameters for granting of the credit.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food deserts as urban neighborhoods and rural towns where fresh, healthy, and affordable food is not readily available. According to the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County’s 2022 report, “Poverty Amongst Plenty: Moving Forward Together,” there are 17 Census Tracts in the County, with nearly 75,000 residents, that have received the designation of food desert. These include areas of Eastport, Glen Burnie, Brooklyn Park, Linthicum Heights, Fort Meade, Jessup and Severn. This enabling legislation would provide the County with another tool to incentivize grocers to construct stores in food deserts, which have poorer outcomes related to social determinants of health.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 131.

**SB 131 Senator Simonaire\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 320  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3658 · 301-858-3658  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3658  
Fax 410-841-3586 · 301-858-3586  
Bryan.Simonaire@senate.state.md.us

*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 131**

Chairman and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 131 – *Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit – Supermarkets*.

Senate Bill 131 would authorize the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant a property tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on personal property of a supermarket that completes certain construction and is located in a certain food desert retail incentive area. It would require the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit.

**SB131\_MRA\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Price

Position: FAV

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**SB131 – Anne Arundel County – Property Tax Credit – Supermarkets  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
January 15, 2025**

**Position:** Favorable

**Background:** SB131 authorizes the government of Anne Arundel County to issue a tax credit against the personal property tax for remodels of existing supermarkets or the construction of new supermarkets that are located in food desert retail incentive areas as defined by the County government.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports the property tax credit proposed in **SB131 Anne Arundel County – Property Tax Credit – Supermarkets**. The average grocery store in the United States operates with the slimmest profit margins in the retail industry – typically about 1-3%. As businesses continue to face unavoidable increases in their operating costs for everything from labor to insurance to utilities, creative approaches like industry-specific tax credits can stabilize and attract food retailers to the communities that need them most. SB131 would benefit the citizens of Anne Arundel County and create a more inviting business environment for the supermarket industry.

With this in mind, we would strongly urge a favorable report on SB131. Thank you for your consideration.