

FAVORABLE - HB 9

Public Safety - Food System Resilience Council - Definition and Reports

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing Date: 25 March 2025

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes today in support of **HB 9 - Public Safety - Food System Resilience Council - Definitions and Reports**.

HB 9 is the result of recommendations from the Maryland Food System Resilience Council to clarify and modernize definitions within the statute to align with subject matter expert and advocate definitions.

MDEM worked closely with the sponsor on HB 9 and supports the amendments made by the House and the current version of the bill. The update to this statute would remove the requirement for the Food System Resilience Council to provide a regularly-updated strategic plan on how the State will increase local food production, procurement, and marketing opportunities. As an advisory body, the FSRC's ability to develop a strategic plan is limited, and since they have no authority or oversight over the programs which support or enhance local food production, their ability to operationalize or implement such a plan is also limited. However, the FSRC will continue to make policy recommendations on these areas as outlined by the amended version of this bill.

In conclusion, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management respectfully requests a favorable report on **HB 9 - Public Safety - Food System Resilience Council - Definitions and Reports**.

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:

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