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FAVORABLE - HB 9
Public Safety - Food System Resilience Council - Definition and Reports

Environment and Transportation

Maryland Department of Emergency Management

Hearing Date: 27 JAN 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 has requested, and the sponsor has agreed to, a small revision to HB 9 which would remove proposed language to create a recurring strategic plan update requirement (page 3, lines 30-32), and would shift lines 1-4 on page 4 to the (B)(ii) section (page 3, lines 14-24). As an advisory body, the FSRC's ability to operationalize a strategic plan they develop is highly limited. However, the FSRC has made policy recommendations on the areas outlined under the strategic plan requirement each of the four years they've published reports. This change would ensure the FSRC continues to make policy recommendations on important areas like increasing production of local food, increasing procurement of local food, creating marketing opportunities for Maryland food businesses, and expanding access to small scale manufacturing and food production. However, it would remove the requirement for the advisory body to update a strategic plan in addition to the existing reporting requirements.

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** with the aforementioned sponsor amendments. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison: anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.