



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1228

DATE: February 28, 2025

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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COUNTY POSITION: Support with Amendments

Department of Commerce – Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve Study MC 15-25

House Bill 1228, as introduced, requires the Maryland Department of Commerce to study the tourist and visitor economy of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, as outlined in the legislation, for the purpose of using the data to help inform how best to promote and preserve the Ag Reserve. The Department must report its findings to the members of the Montgomery County State Delegation by June 30, 2026. The bill reflects recommendations developed during a local summit that took place last year focused on growing tourism to support small nonprofit organizations and businesses located in the Ag Reserve.

The Montgomery County House Delegation amendments make important improvements to the bill that will result in a more comprehensive and useful work product. The County supports this effort, and therefore, requests a favorable report on House Bill 1228 as amended by the Delegation.