



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 28, 2025

Bill Number: **HB1434**

Bill Title: Food Deserts - Workgroup

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 1434 - Food Deserts - Workgroup.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. MDOA already participates actively on the Maryland Food Resiliency Council and ad hoc workgroups associated with it where there is discussion of food deserts, also known as low-income, low-access food areas. MDOA is appreciative of the bill sponsor's commitment to working on this issue. However, as a small state agency, MDOA does not have the staff capacity to join and meaningfully contribute to an additional workgroup focused on this topic.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging



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