

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1434/SB 353 - Maryland Food System Resiliency Council - Healthy Food Priority Area Study Del. Amprey Sen. Sailing & Watson

POSITION:

SUPPORTS

HB1434/SB 353 Maryland Food System Resiliency Council — Healthy Food Priority Area Study represents a proactive step by Maryland to tackle the issue of food deserts through comprehensive study and collaborative planning. The insights gained from the Food Deserts Workgroup are anticipated to inform future policies and initiatives aimed at ensuring equitable access to healthy food for all Maryland residents. Counties often have unique challenges related to food access, whether due to urban food deserts or supply chain limitations. This bill allows counties to participate in shaping statewide strategies while ensuring that solutions are tailored to local needs.

Supporting HB 1434/SB 353 would enable Prince George's County to collaborate on statewide efforts to eliminate food deserts, build upon existing local initiatives and leverage state resources to improve food security and public health outcomes for its residents.

For these reasons, the Prince George's County Council urges the General Assembly to pass HB 1434/SB 353 and support the establishment of the food desserts workgroup. Addressing food insecurity is not only a matter of equity but also a necessary step toward improving public health, economic stability and community resilience.