



**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 353 – Food Deserts Workgroup - Establishment

**Hearing Date:** February 6, 2025

**Position:** Support

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Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 353 – Food Deserts Workgroup – Establishment*. The legislation establishes a workgroup to study and report on food deserts in Maryland. The study would help inform policy initiatives to address the impact of food deserts on Maryland communities.

Moveable Feast’s mission is centered on health equity. We provide medically tailored meals to improve the health outcomes of people with serious chronic or life-threatening disease. Many of our clients live in food deserts, which are defined as a “low-income census tract with limited access to healthy and affordable food” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.<sup>i</sup> The health of our clients, their families, and their community members has been compromised by food deserts.<sup>ii</sup> We support this legislation as part of Maryland’s efforts to address social determinants of health.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net).

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/amber-waves/2011/december/data-feature-mapping-food-deserts-in-the-u-s>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health-outcomes.html#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20and%20the%20lack,disorders%20and%20other%20chronic%20diseases%20>