

***HB 56 - Procurement - State Department of Education - Control Authority -  
Local Food Purchasing***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Health and Government Operations  
**Date:** February 4, 2025  
**From:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) supports HB 56 with amendments intended to achieve the legislative intent of this meaningful initiative. DGS supports the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) establishing and administering a program to connect local public school systems with local farms and fisheries to provide local food products to students. DGS is currently working with both MSDE and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) on efforts to establish such a program.

In support of this legislation, DGS is working collaboratively with the bill sponsors, along with our sister agencies to develop amendments.

For the reasons detailed above, DGS requests a favorable report on HB 56 with amendments.

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