

February 25, 2025

Chair Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
241 House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Fiscal impact letter from MSDE on HB 56

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing a fiscal impact letter regarding **House Bill 056 PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL FOOD FOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS (formerly State Department of Education - Control Authority - Local Food)**, which authorizes the State Department of Education to engage in the procurement of local food. This includes food grown at a certified local farm, food provided by a certified Chesapeake invasive species provider, or food grown within a 250-mile radius from a Maryland elementary or secondary school.

In our original fiscal note, we estimated that MSDE would need to hire one procurement officer and one administrative aide to oversee the master contract with local food providers at a cost of \$168,205 in fiscal 2026, and increasing in future years. MSDE respectfully requests to retract that assessment. MSDE now has estimated that oversight of the amended bill can be done with current staffing and existing resources, with the exception of adding one contractual position (.8 FTE) with an estimated cost of less than \$50,000. This position would be in the Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs and would support the procurement team in administrative matters related to the contract(s).

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **HB0056**. Please contact Akilah Alleyne, Ph.D. in the Office of Government Affairs at [akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov](mailto:akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov) for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools