



**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**

BALTIMORE • SALISBURY • HAGERSTOWN

2200 Halethorpe Farms Road
Baltimore, MD 21227

Tel 410.737.8282

Fax 410.536.0438

www.mdfoodbank.org

HB 483

Income Tax Credit - Venison Donation – Alterations House Ways and Means Committee February 6, 2025

SUPPORT

House Bill 483 removes the \$300 limit in tax credit a hunter can receive for expenses incurred in donating processed deer meat to a nonprofit venison donation program. Under current law, hunters who harvest and donate processed venison to a 501(c) nonprofit organization can claim up to \$75 in tax credit for butchering and processing fees but are capped at claiming \$300 per year.

The Maryland Food Bank would not be able to feed the 1 in 3 Marylanders who are at risk of food insecurity without a strong local food system, and the foundation of our food system is the farms and farmers located throughout the state. Through our Farm to Food Bank Program, we contract grow with, glean from, and accept donations from local farms whose products go directly into food insecure communities through our network of nearly 800 partner organizations and over 1,200 distribution sites across the state.

The Maryland Food Bank understands that damage to farms is damage to the food system, and just last year, Maryland Agriculture Secretary Atticks stated that 99% of farmers reported their crops suffered deer damage in a survey of all 23 counties and Baltimore City. Just last year, we heard from a farmer on the Eastern Shore who lost over \$200,000 to deer alone the previous growing season, and the Maryland Farm Bureau estimates that deer damage across the state could be as high as \$60 million annually. This bill can build on the existing venison donation program to incentivize hunters to decrease the damage caused by deer to Maryland farmers and simultaneously increase venison donations to the Food Bank that will be used to help feed families statewide.

The Maryland Food Bank appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 483.

ANNE WALLERSTEDT, ESQ.

Vice President, Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives
awallerstedt@mdfoodbank.org
C: 410.991.7285

MATTHEW CAPODANNO

Manager, Government Relations
mcapodanno@mdfoodbank.org
C: 908.984.4400

