

DANA JONES
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Anne Arundel County Delegation

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones
Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB 598
Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit - Supermarkets
February 11th 2025 1 PM**

For the record, I am Delegate Dana Jones representing District 30A in the House of Delegates.

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, I come before you today to introduce HB 598, Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit – Supermarkets.

House Bill 598 is enabling legislation that would authorize the governing body of Anne Arundel County or of a municipal corporation in Anne Arundel County to grant a property tax credit against the personal property tax imposed on personal property of a supermarket that completes certain construction and is located in a certain food desert retail incentive area. It would require the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit. Similar legislation has been passed for Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George’s County.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food deserts as urban neighborhoods and rural towns where fresh, healthy, and affordable food is not readily available. According to the County’s 2022 “Poverty Amongst Plenty” report, there are 17 Census Tracts in the County, with nearly 75,000 residents, that have received the food desert designation. These include areas of Eastport, Glen Burnie, Brooklyn Park, Linthicum Heights, Fort Meade, Jessup and Severn.

I'm proud to cross-file this bi-partisan legislation with Senator Simonaire, and hope that this tax credit can serve as a tool in the County's tool box to attract investment where it is critically needed.

With that, I respectfully urge the Delegation to move favorably on HB 598.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones