



February 11, 2025

House Bill 598

Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit - Supermarkets House Ways and Means Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 598 – Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit - Supermarkets. This enabling legislation 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 food desert retail incentive area. It also requires the governing body to designate what constitutes a food desert retail incentive area for purposes of the tax credit and provide the parameters for granting of the credit.

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 Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County's 2022 report, "Poverty Amongst Plenty: Moving Forward Together," there are 17 Census Tracts in the County, with nearly 75,000 residents, that have received the designation of food desert. These include areas of Eastport, Glen Burnie, Brooklyn Park, Linthicum Heights, Fort Meade, Jessup and Severn. This enabling legislation would provide the County with another tool to incentivize grocers to construct stores in food deserts, which have poorer outcomes related to social determinants of health.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 598.