



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

DATE: February 18, 2025

BILL NUMBER: HB 907

SHORT TITLE: Property Tax Credit – Urban Agricultural Property – Alterations

MDA POSITION: SUPPORT

This legislation alters the eligibility for a tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on certain urban agricultural property and requires a county or municipal corporation that grants the tax credit to provide notice of the termination of the credit at least one year in advance. Additionally, it requires an opportunity for a public hearing before the county or municipal corporation may exercise its authority to terminate the credit.

The current definition of urban agriculture in statute of “at least one–eighth of an acre and not more than 5 acres” does not accurately reflect the true nature and scale of most urban farms. As a result, farmers in Prince George’s and Baltimore City particularly have contacted MDA over the past few years seeking assistance in obtaining the tax credit. Local jurisdictions have interpreted the law as written and as a result, anything less than $\frac{1}{8}$ of an acre has not qualified for the credit even though it is very clearly a farm operation. At times, it has even made residents ineligible for urban agriculture grants to support start up or infrastructure upgrade costs.

The MDA supports HB 907. We appreciate the Committee’s consideration and request a favorable report on this legislation.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at rachel.jones2@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.