



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Communication and Coordination Committee

December 5, 2022 1:00am-2:00pm

1. Welcome

a. Introduction

2. Group Discussion

a. Legislative Preparation

i. Group Sharing of Legislative consideration

ii. 2023 Process of Committees Legislation

1. In 2022, the Committee's legislative recommendations were presented to the leadership of the Food System Resiliency Council to determine approval. To streamline the process, this year (2023) the Committee's legislative recommendations will act as the formal position of the Food System Resiliency Council without approval from the leadership. We encourage everyone to participate.
2. We do not need to take a position on every bill, however any position taken should be the consensus of the committee's quorum.
3. We will determine a quorum for this committee from appointed members.
4. If the committee determines not to take a position on a proposed bill, individuals still reserve the right to act on behalf of their organization. The co-chair of the FSRC, or



- designee will provide the council's position during the session.
5. A committee co-chair will need to be determined.
- iii. Lobbying Consideration
1. Ethics Training – Members who are considered non-state employees may need to complete ethics training to ensure compliance with the appropriate rules.
 2. Conflict of Interest – Members of the council may need to consider reporting to ensure there are no conflicts of interest (e.g. advocating on behalf of a bill which may directly impact your organization).
 3. Registration – Some members may need to begin filing lobbyist reports. Completing ethics training is really important, we should begin considering training prior to advocacy activities this session. Registered lobbyists file a disclosure form, the committee should take these items under consideration.
 4. **There is also a free helpline for ethics concerns if a member would prefer a quick and anonymous conversation as they make their way through the session. It is toll free: 1-877-669-6085**
- b. Group Discussion
- i. University of Maryland are State employees who cannot lobby, but are able to provide technical expertise. There are two separate designations of employees working at the University, (1) the University employee only (e.g. Johns Hopkins), and (2) State/University employees. How is this covered for the council?
 - ii. If you know a legislator or are a legislator please notify the committee of proposed bills, so that the committee can begin considering a position.



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- iii. Is there a process for disclosure of (real or perceived) conflicts of interest? Is there a process for development of testimony or voting in support of a bill, if there is conflict of interest?
 - 1. Historically, members are responsible to disclose themselves, and deferred or abstain from testimony. Moving forward members will be encouraged to be more transparent.
- iv. Specific guidance is needed for committee members, and non-members who participate in committees.
 - 1. Bylaws are under development to provide further clarity for process and organization.

3. Next steps and adjourn

- a. Resource Handout