



# Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

## Communications and Coordination Subcommittee

### Minutes

Feb 22, 2022 1:00pm - 1:30pm

1. Welcome - Michael J. Wilson, Subcommittee Chair
2. Bills for Review - Anna Sierra
  - a. [HB1027 \(SB0921\)](#) - Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility (SNAP for Students). *House hearing 3/10, Appropriations (Testimony due 3/8); no Senate hearing scheduled.*
    - i. Michael J. gave a description: the bill would continue COVID waivers for college students to make it easier for them to enroll (and to continue to be enrolled). To fund this program, the governor is required to allocate funding in his budget.
    - ii. Michael J. reported that Maryland Hunger Solutions will support with amendments. Their group continues to support the Hunger-Free Campuses program, which gives money to the higher education commission to fund hunger-free campuses in MD (matching dollars from schools). These funds benefit not just college students but low-income staff, security, adjuncts, etc. by encouraging SNAP participation and implementing wider initiatives to support food security on campus communities.
    - iii. Discussion: Stephanie gave her perspective as a UMD campus community member. UMD has done a lot in the last few years to tackle food insecurity, and it would be a shame to see that work not be continued. She agreed that initiatives like the Hunger-Free Campus Program do a better job of recognizing that hunger on college campuses are not limited to students, but that this bill would still enable important programs to continue. Heather said that in Montgomery County, student hunger is a big problem; it makes sense for Council to weigh in and offer support for this bill.



- iv. Question: who determines eligibility? For example, if someone lives in MD but attends school out of state, do they qualify? Stephanie replied that eligibility is based on FAFSA/work-study application; because it is a state-level program, eligibility is based on residency in the state, and at least part-time school enrollment.
- v. Stephanie moves to support the bill as is, Heather seconds; Stephanie will draft testimony.
- b. [HB1163](#) - Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education - Requirements. *Hearing 3/9, Ways and Means (Testimony due 3/7).*
  - i. Anna explained that this bill likely won't require a position from the Council, but it's more of an FYI for the Council (similar status to the previously discussed virtual schools bill). There are provisions that touch on how nutrition programs must be incorporated into virtual school structures, but mainly as part of a list of best practices.
  - ii. Since the bill deals with education and not allocation of school meals or benefits, Michael J. suggests passing on the bill; other members agreed.
  - iii. The subcommittee agreed that no direct position is needed to be taken on the bill at this time.
- c. [HB1216](#) - Department of Agriculture - Urban Agriculture Grant Fund. *Hearing 3/4, Environment and Transportation (Testimony due 3/2).*
  - i. Requires significant alteration of existing Urban Agriculture Grant Fund, including the structure of its board, distribution of funds, placement within state agency, etc.
  - ii. Steve McHenry reported that the bill came out of workgroup that studied the grant structure, contains many of the group's recommendations
  - iii. Cassie Shirk reported that MDA will take no position, but they will provide a letter of information
  - iv. Other supporters of the bill include Maryland Farm Bureau and, likely, MARBIDCO.
  - v. Subcommittee agrees to monitor and Steve will report back with more info if he learns anything.
- d. [HB1228](#) - Natural Resources – Oysters – Spat, Shells, and Substrate. *Hearing 3/4, Environment and Transportation.*



- i. Steve McHenry reported that this complicated bill: the intent is to recover/recycle shell for oyster replacement program and provide shell to watermen; however, the draft leaves out oyster farmers
    - ii. Bill calls on MARBIDCO to administer, although Steve was not consulted first.
    - iii. Steve suggests monitoring for now.
  - e. Updates:
    - i. [SB0378](#) - Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland - Funding for Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. *Reported favorably with amendments. Next step will be a Senate floor vote.*
    - ii. [HB0855 \(SB0942\)](#) - Agriculture - Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and Fund - Establishment. *Cross-filed in the Senate, hearing date not set.*
    - iii. [HB0456 \(SB0957\)](#) - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement. *Cross-filed in the Senate, hearing date not set.*
    - iv. [HB0857 \(SB0971\)](#) - new Senate crossfile
- 3. Hearing schedule this week:
  - a. Tuesday, 2/22
    - i. [HB0540](#) - Appropriations, 1:00 PM
  - b. Thursday, 2/24
    - i. [SB0630](#) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, 1:00 PM
    - ii. [SB0552](#) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, 1:00 PM
  - c. Friday, 2/25
    - i. [HB0855](#) - Environment and Transportation, 11:00 AM