



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Communications and Coordination Subcommittee

Minutes

Jan 18, 2022 1:00pm - 1:30pm

1. Welcome - Michael J. Wilson, Subcommittee Chair
2. Bills for Review - Anna Sierra
 - a. New this week (see table for discussion and recommendations):
 - i. [HB0178](#) - Public Health - Cottage Food Businesses - Annual Revenues (Delegate Chang). Assigned to HGO, 1/19, 2:30pm.
 - ii. [SB0014/HB0100](#) - Sustainable Maryland Program Fund (Senator Elfreth/Delegate Solomon). Hearing 1/25 in House Appropriations. Assigned to Senate EHE, no hearing yet.
 - iii. [SB0039](#) - Task Force to Study the Feasibility of Returning State Meat Processing Inspection (Farms Buy Local Act) (Senator Cassilly). Assigned to EHE, no hearing yet.
 - iv. [SB0256/HB0031](#) - MEA - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund (Senator Beidle/Delegate Charkoudian). Assigned to Senate Finance, no hearing yet. Assigned to House Economic Matters, no hearing yet.
 - v. [SB0263](#) - Health - Food Service Facilities - Beverage Options with Children's Meals (Senator Beidle). Assigned to Senate Finance, no hearing yet.
 - b. Updates:
 - i. New information for [HB0156](#) from Delegate Queen via Sydney Daigle:
 1. *This bill was inspired by the [Million Acre Challenge](#), which is an initiative building soil health, water quality, and farm profitability in Maryland while making farms resilient in the face of climate change. This bill would create urban agriculture incentive zones which allows municipalities to offer certain incentives (reduced water/electricity prices, tax reductions, etc). This bill is modeled on a similar bill*



passed in Illinois. “Locally-Grown” is being used to broadly refer to jurisdictions in Maryland. The specifics of the application process is being left to local jurisdictions, as they would best know what metrics would be appropriate. The bill would require the application procedure to identify the number of jobs created, maintained, or supported, but does not specify a minimum number. If a minimum number was created it would be determined by local governments. If you have suggestions on how to strengthen, clarify, or improve this bill please provide them and we will certainly consider them.

3. Hearing Schedule Week of 1/17

a. 1/19 - House

- i. [HB0147](#) - Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program - Alterations and Establishment (Environment and Transportation; 13:00)
 1. Heather Bruskin scheduled to testify
- ii. [HB0156](#) - Local Governments - Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones - Authorization (Environment and Transportation; 13:00)
- iii. [HB0178](#) - Public Health - Cottage Food Businesses - Annual Revenues (Delegate Chang). Assigned to HGO, 1/19, 2:30pm.

b. 1/19 - Senate

- i. [SBO124](#) - Public Schools - Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; 13:00)



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2022 Legislation Full List

Bill #	Cross-file	Title	Sponsor	Hearing Date
HB0147	SB0121	Maryland Farms and Families Fund, Maryland Food and Agricultural Resiliency Mechanism Grant Program, and Maryland Farm-to-School Meal Grant Pilot Program - Alterations and Establishment	Del. Charkoudian Senator Hester	House Hearing 1/19, 13:00 (Environment & Transportation) Senate Hearing 1/25, 13:30 (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)
<i>Discussion:</i> No discussion <i>Recommendation:</i> Support				
HB0150	SB0124	Public Schools - Grant Program to Reduce and Compost School Waste	Dels. Charkoudian and Solomon Senator Hettleman	Senate Hearing 1/19, 13:00 (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) House Hearing 1/27, 13:00 (Ways and Means)
<i>Discussion:</i> Consensus that this bill aligns with the FSRC goals. Highlighted the equity focus and food refusal capability. Del. Charkoudian indicated she was happy to discuss the bill. <i>Recommendation:</i> Support				



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HB0156		Local Governments - Urban Agricultural Incentive Zones - Authorization	Delegate Queen	Hearing 1/19, 13:00 (Environment & Transportation)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Reviewed information provided by Delegate Queen. <i>Recommendation:</i> Support (Committee acknowledged it was too late to establish a position on the House bill but can consider supporting the crossover if it gets out of the House)</p>				
HB0171	SB0135	Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act	Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo Senator Kramer	No hearing date in either chamber set as of 1/14
<p><i>Discussion:</i> No discussion <i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
HB0179		Counties and State Legislative Districts - Food Environment Reports	Del. Amprey	1/25, 13:00 (Environment & Transportation)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Interest in understanding more about motivation of the legislators, and believe not including restaurants and prepared food is a missed opportunity. <i>Action:</i> Sydney did reach out to the Senate sponsor but had not heard back. <i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
HB0184	SB0229	Environment - On-Farm Composting Facilities - Permit Exemption	Del. Shetty Sen. Gallion	House Hearing 2/2, 13:00 (Environment & Transportation)



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				Senate Hearing 1/25, 13:30 (Education, Health, and Environment)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Dr. Lansing provided additional information regarding the bill and concern regarding the definitions in the bill, particularly around “farm” or “farming” to ensure there are no loopholes for composting businesses (rather than farms who happen to compost).</p> <p><i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
HB0178		Public Health - Cottage Food Businesses - Annual Revenues	Del. Chang and Del Krim	House Hearing 1/19 at 2:30 (Health and Government Operations)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Interested in the price point for cottage food, why \$100,000 was chosen. Lindsay Smith volunteered to reach out.</p> <p><i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
SB0014	HB0100	Sustainable Maryland Program Fund	Senator Elfreth Delegate Solomon	House Hearing 1/25, 13:00 (Appropriations) None in the Senate as of 1/14
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Sydney provided background on Sustainable Maryland.</p> <p><i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
SB0039		Task Force to Study the Feasibility of	Senator Cassilly	Senate Hearing 1/25, 13:30



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		Returning State Meat Processing Inspection (Farms Buy Local Act)		(Education, Health, and Environment)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Stephanie agreed to take this to the E&P Subcommittee and reach out to the sponsor. <i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
SB0256	HB0031	MEA - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund	Senator Beidle Delegate Charkoudian	Assigned to House Economic Matters, no hearing yet. Senate Hearing 2/1, 13:00 (Finance)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Determined to be not directly food-related <i>Recommendation:</i> Monitor</p>				
SB0263		Health - Food Service Facilities - Beverage Options with Children's Meals	Senator Beidle	Senate Hearing, 2/3, 13:00 (Finance)
<p><i>Discussion:</i> Sydney indicated it is in line with other legislation across the state. Does not prohibit soda choices. Sydney offered to reach out to advocacy groups who have been active at the local level to determine their positions. <i>Recommendation:</i> Support</p>				