

## Maryland Farm Bureau Hotline #2

### Bills We're Following

#### **HB42: Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs – Established**

*Delegate Boyce | House Hearing: E&T 1/29/25 at 1:30 p.m.*

This bill will establish the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue.

#### **MDFB Position: Support**

MDFB supports HB42 in its efforts to provide funding for On-Farm Organic Diversion and Composting. Managing waste is important to farmers and supporting the implementation of on-farm composting is beneficial to the farmer and surrounding environment.

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#### **SB162: Agriculture - Departmental Authority Over Identification, Inspection, and Sale of Cantaloupes – Repeal**

*Senator Simonaire | Senate Hearing: EEE 1/28/25 at 2:30 p.m.*

This bill repeals the Department of Agriculture's authority over the identification, inspection, and sale of cantaloupes.

#### **MDFB Position: Support**

This bill does not change the way that cantaloupes are currently inspected, identified or sold. All of those are responsibilities of the USDA, and MDA is not currently involved in the process.

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#### **SB176: Agriculture - Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan - Uses of Information**

*Chair of EEE | Senate Hearing: EEE 1/28/25 at 2:30 p.m.*

This bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture to use information from soil conservation and water quality plans for certain enforcement actions and statistical purposes.

#### **MDFB Position: Monitor**

This bill is an MDA Departmental that gives MDA the same access to information from the Soil Conservation Districts and Water Quality Plan that MDE has access to currently.

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**SB226: Maryland Farms and Families Fund - Purpose and Use – Alterations**

*Chair of Finance | Senate Hearing: Finance 1/30/25 at 1:00 p.m.*

This bill would allow for the use of the Maryland Farms and Families Fund to match purchases made with FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits at farmers markets and farm stands.

**MDFB Position: Support**

This is another MDA Departmental bill. The ability to expand the ability for the consumers to purchase from a Farmer's Market with FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits brings opportunities to both those selling and purchasing at the farmers markets.

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**SB240: Department of Agriculture – Maryland Agricultural Commission and Young Farmers**

*Chair of EEE | Senate Hearing: EEE 1/28/25 at 2:30 p.m.*

Altering the membership of the Maryland Agricultural Commission; establishing the Committee on Young Farmers for purposes of communicating to the Maryland Agricultural Commission issues relating to young and beginning farmers in the State; and repealing the provisions of law establishing and governing the Young Farmers Advisory Board.

**MDFB Position: Support**

This bill will alter the makeup of the industries represented on the Maryland Agricultural Commission. The makeup of the Commission will be more representative of the current agriculture makeup within our state. This bill also will add the Committee on Young Farmers under the Maryland Agricultural Commission.

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**SB249: Pesticide and Pest Control - Revisions to Pesticide Applicator's Law and Repeal of Obsolete Provisions**

*Chair of EEE | Senate Hearing: EEE 1/28/25 at 2:30 p.m.*

This bill will modify and revise those allowed to apply pesticide under the Pesticide Applicator's Law. The language for applicators responsibility is also updated.

**MDFB Position: Monitor**

MDFB will continue to monitor the path and hearings of this bill and the changes that it will make to the Pesticide Applicator's Law.