

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 983
Ways and Means

(Delegate D. Barnes, *et al.*)

Public Schools - Food Recovery Programs - Authorization

This bill authorizes a county board of education to develop and implement a “food recovery program” that reduces food waste by donating leftover or excess food in schools under its jurisdiction to a local food bank or other nonprofit organization. If a county board exercises this authority, it may apply for recognition of its food recovery program under any relevant certification program.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. All operational decisions for school breakfast and lunch programs are made at the local level. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Local boards of education that elect to institute food recovery programs in their schools may have increased expenditures; any increase cannot be reliably estimated. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is no relevant State law on this topic.

Background: The Food Recovery Network began on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park and has grown into the largest food recovery network in the country, concentrated on college campuses. The network currently has 172 chapters and

has donated/recovered more than 1.0 million pounds of food since 2011. Through its Food Recovery Certified program, the network also recognizes and rewards businesses for recovering and donating their surplus, unsold food. Only three entities in Maryland are certified, none of which are local boards of education.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Food Recovery Network, Department of Legislative Services

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min/rhh

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