

# HOUSE BILL 179

C8  
HB 1325/21 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0867

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By: **Delegate Amprey**  
Requested: October 20, 2021  
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022  
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 13, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports~~  
3 Workgroup on Food Environments

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development,~~  
5 ~~the Department of Planning, the Department of Human Services, and the~~  
6 ~~Department of Agriculture to jointly produce a report for each county and each State~~  
7 ~~legislative district on the food environment in the county and district on or before a~~  
8 ~~certain date and at a certain frequency thereafter, and submit the report to the~~  
9 ~~General Assembly; and generally relating to food environments in State legislative~~  
10 ~~districts~~ establishing the Workgroup on Food Environments to determine and make  
11 recommendations regarding the most cost-effective method for producing a report  
12 on the food environment in each county and State legislative district; and generally  
13 relating to the Workgroup on Food Environments.

14 ~~BY adding to~~  
15 ~~Article – Housing and Community Development~~  
16 ~~Section 6 – 308.5~~  
17 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
18 ~~(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

21 ~~Article – Housing and Community Development~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ~~6-308.5.~~

2       (A) (1) ~~IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~  
3 ~~INDICATED.~~

4               (2) ~~“SNAP” MEANS THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION~~  
5 ~~ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.~~

6               (3) ~~“WIC” MEANS THE FEDERAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD~~  
7 ~~PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN.~~

8       (B) ~~ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 EVERY 2~~  
9 ~~YEARS THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE~~  
10 ~~DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE~~  
11 ~~SHALL JOINTLY PRODUCE A REPORT FOR EACH COUNTY AND EACH STATE~~  
12 ~~LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ON THE FOOD ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTY AND THE~~  
13 ~~DISTRICT.~~

14       (C) ~~THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:~~

15               (1) ~~THE METRICS THAT DETERMINE FOOD INSECURITY ZONES;~~

16               (2) ~~DETAILED METRICS THAT IDENTIFY THE HEALTH FOOD~~  
17 ~~AVAILABILITY INDEX FOR EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT, TAKING~~  
18 ~~INTO ACCOUNT THE DENSITY, POPULATION, AND TRANSPORTATION METHODS USED~~  
19 ~~IN EACH COUNTY AND DISTRICT;~~

20               (3) ~~THE NUMBER OF GROCERY STORES AND SUPERMARKETS~~  
21 ~~OFFERING FRESH FOOD IN EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT;~~

22               (4) ~~THE NUMBER OF SNAP AND WIC RECIPIENTS IN EACH COUNTY~~  
23 ~~AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT; AND~~

24               (5) ~~WHICH STORES ACCEPT PURCHASES MADE WITH SNAP AND WIC~~  
25 ~~BENEFITS IN EACH COUNTY AND EACH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.~~

26       (D) ~~IN PRODUCING THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE~~  
27 ~~DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN~~  
28 ~~SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MAY COLLABORATE WITH:~~

29               (1) ~~ANY UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE;~~

1 ~~(2) ANY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR ASSOCIATION THAT~~  
2 ~~SPECIALIZES IN EQUITY FOR HEALTH AND FOOD PRIORITY AREAS; AND~~

3 ~~(3) ANY LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING OR~~  
4 ~~EQUIVALENT DEPARTMENT.~~

5 ~~(E) THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, THE~~  
6 ~~DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE~~  
7 ~~SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE GENERAL~~  
8 ~~ASSEMBLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

9 (a) There is a Workgroup on Food Environments.

10 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

11 (1) two members of the Maryland Association of Counties, designated by  
12 the Executive Director of the Association;

13 (2) the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community  
14 Development, or the Secretary's designee;

15 (3) the Secretary of the Department of Planning, or the Secretary's  
16 designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of the Department of Human Services, or the Secretary's  
18 designee;

19 (5) the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, or the Secretary's  
20 designee;

21 (6) a representative of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future,  
22 designated by the Director of the Center; and

23 (7) one representative each from four different grocery store brands with a  
24 presence in the State, appointed by the Governor.

25 (c) The Workgroup shall elect a chair from among its members.

26 (d) A member of the Workgroup:

27 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but

28 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
29 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

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1 (e) The Workgroup shall determine the most cost-effective way to produce a food  
2 environment report for each county and each State legislative district in the State.

3 (f) On or before November 30, 2022, the Workgroup shall report its findings and  
4 legislative recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
5 State Government Article.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
7 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.