

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1019

(Delegate Jameson, *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region

This bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2013, and terminates June 30, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not directly affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill establishes a Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Hub and Spoke Program in the Southern Maryland Region, including Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, to provide the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of that region with fresh farm products. The task force is staffed by the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission. Members of the task force do not receive compensation. The task force must:

- assess the nutritional needs of the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of the Southern Maryland region;

- study the infrastructure and equipment required to best serve those needs;
- make recommendations regarding the locations of collection and distribution sites throughout the region;
- make recommendations regarding the operation and management of a hub and spoke program, including human resources, the collaboration among members of the agricultural community and anti-hunger organizations, and processes for collecting and distributing locally grown farm food;
- make recommendations regarding education and outreach efforts throughout the region regarding the hub and spoke program; and
- study and make recommendations regarding options for granting State and local tax incentives to individuals who donate locally grown farm food to the hub and spoke program and how to verify the activities of those individuals.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and the General Assembly by December 1, 2013.

Background: The Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission was convened by the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland in 2000, when the State instituted a voluntary tobacco buy-out program to transition farms out of tobacco production. The commission has assisted farmers in transitioning from tobacco production to alternative crops and agricultural enterprises and works to promote local farm products. The bill allows for the study of a related function of facilitating the donation of locally grown foods to the low-income, working poor, and unemployed populations of the Southern Maryland Region. “Hub and spoke” refers to a system for collection (to a hub or distribution center) and distribution to the community.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 586 (Senators Middleton and Dyson) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Charles and St. Mary’s counties, Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2013
mc/lgc Revised - House Third Reader - March 22, 2013

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510