

HOUSE BILL 84

M4, B1

9lr0677
CF 9lr1126

By: **Delegates Charkoudian, Hettleman, Feldmark, Glenn, Guyton, Hill, Korman, Lehman, R. Lewis, Lierman, McIntosh, Queen, Smith, Stewart, Terrasa, Washington, C. Watson, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 17, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Farms and Families Fund – Purpose, Use, Funding, and Grant**
3 **Qualifications – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the purpose and use of the Maryland Farms and Families
5 Fund; requiring the Governor to include a certain appropriation to the Fund in the
6 annual budget bill each fiscal year, beginning in a certain fiscal year; altering certain
7 qualifications for certain nonprofit organizations to receive a certain grant from the
8 Fund; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the Maryland Farms and
9 Families Fund.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Agriculture
12 Section 10–2001 and 10–2002
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Agriculture
17 Section 10–2003 and 10–2004
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Agriculture

22
23 10–2001.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- 2 (b) “FMNP” means the federal Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- 3 (c) “Fund” means the Maryland Farms and Families Fund.
- 4 (d) “Program” means the Maryland Farms and Families Program.
- 5 (e) “SNAP” means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- 6 (f) “WIC” means the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women,
7 Infants, and Children.

8 10–2002.

- 9 (a) There is a Maryland Farms and Families Program in the Department.
- 10 (b) The purpose of the Program is to double the purchasing power of food–insecure
11 Maryland residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables and to increase
12 revenue for farmers through redemption of federal nutrition benefits at Maryland farmers
13 markets.

14 10–2003.

- 15 (a) There is a Maryland Farms and Families Fund.
- 16 (b) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to [nonprofit]:
- 17 (1) **NONPROFIT** organizations that match purchases made with FMNP,
18 SNAP, and WIC benefits at participating farmers markets [throughout the State];

19 (2) **NONPROFIT FARMERS MARKETS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM**
20 **AT THE FARMERS MARKETS; AND**

21 (3) **LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
22 **PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ONE OR MORE PARTICIPATING LOCAL FARMERS**
23 **MARKETS.**

- 24 (c) The Secretary shall administer the Fund.

25 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of
26 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

27 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
28 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

1 (e) The Fund consists of:

2 (1) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

3 (2) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the
4 Fund.

5 (f) (1) In accordance with this subsection, the Fund shall be used to provide
6 grants to [nonprofit organizations that meet the qualifications established in § 10–2004 of
7 this subtitle]:

8 (I) **NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THAT:**

9 1. **MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED IN §**
10 **10–2004 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

11 2. **DISTRIBUTE THE GRANT MONEY TO FARMERS**
12 **MARKETS AND LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS**
13 **SUBTITLE;**

14 (II) **NONPROFIT FARMERS MARKETS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
15 **PROGRAM AT THE FARMERS MARKETS; AND**

16 (III) **LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
17 **PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ONE OR MORE LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS.**

18 (2) A qualified nonprofit organization that receives a grant under this
19 section:

20 (i) Shall distribute at least 70% of the grant money it receives [to
21 participating Maryland farmers markets for healthy local food incentives] **DIRECTLY TO**
22 **PARTICIPATING FARMERS MARKETS AS MATCHING DOLLARS FOR PURCHASES MADE**
23 **WITH FMNP, SNAP, AND WIC BENEFITS; and**

24 (ii) May not use more than 30% of the grant money it receives for
25 [statewide] Program development, promotion and outreach, farmers market training and
26 capacity building, technical assistance, program data collection, evaluation,
27 administration, and reporting.

28 (g) [Subject to the limitations of the State budget] **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 AND**
29 **EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER**, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill
30 [a proposed General Fund] **AN appropriation OF \$500,000** to the Fund [of \$500,000 for
31 each fiscal year].

32 10–2004.

1 (a) A nonprofit organization is qualified to receive a grant in accordance with this
2 subtitle if the Department determines that the nonprofit organization has a demonstrated
3 record of:

4 (1) [Building a statewide network;

5 (2)] Designing and implementing successful healthy food incentive
6 programs that connect federal food benefits recipients with local producers;

7 [(3)] (2) Implementing funds distributing and reporting processes;

8 [(4)] (3) Providing training and technical assistance to farmers markets;

9 [(5)] (4) Conducting community outreach and data collection, including
10 customer surveys; and

11 [(6)] (5) Providing a full accounting and administration of funds
12 distributed to farmers markets.

13 (b) Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, a qualified nonprofit
14 organization that received a grant in accordance with this subtitle shall submit a report to
15 the Department that includes the following information:

16 (1) The names and locations of Maryland farmers markets that received
17 funds under the Program;

18 (2) The dollar amount of funds awarded to each participating farmers
19 market;

20 (3) The dollar amount of FMNP, SNAP, and WIC benefits, and funds
21 provided under the Program that were spent at participating farmers markets, as well as
22 any unspent funds;

23 (4) The number of FMNP, SNAP, and WIC transactions carried out at
24 participating farmers markets; and

25 (5) The impact of the Program on increasing the quantity of fresh fruits
26 and vegetables consumed by FMNP, SNAP, and WIC families, as determined by customer
27 surveys.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
29 1, 2019.