

Chapter 383

(Senate Bill 290)

AN ACT concerning

Certified Local Farm and Fish Program – Annual Waiver Reports – Alterations

FOR the purpose of altering the annual deadline for the Office for the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program to submit to the Board of Public Works a report of waivers requested and waivers granted under the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program; altering the annual deadline for the Board of Public Works to submit to certain standing committees a copy of a record of information regarding any waivers requested under the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program; and generally relating to the Certified Local Farm and Fish Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 Section 14–703(a)(1)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 Section 14–703(e) and (f)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – State Finance and Procurement

14–703.

(a) (1) Each unit shall structure procurement procedures, consistent with the purposes of this subtitle, to try to achieve an overall percentage goal of 20% of the unit's total dollar value of procurement contracts for food being made directly or indirectly to certified local farms and certified Chesapeake invasive species providers.

(e) (1) (i) If a unit does not achieve the certified local farm and certified Chesapeake invasive species provider participation goals on a procurement contract for food, the unit shall demonstrate to the Office that the unit took all necessary and reasonable steps to achieve the goals.

(ii) A waiver of any part of the certified local farm and certified Chesapeake invasive species provider goals for a procurement contract for food shall be

granted if a unit provides to the Office a reasonable demonstration of good faith efforts to achieve the goals.

(2) The Office may waive any of the requirements of this subsection relating to the establishment, use, and waiver of certified local farm and certified Chesapeake invasive species provider goals for a sole source, expedited, or emergency procurement in which the public interest cannot reasonably accommodate use of those requirements.

(3) Except for waivers granted in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, when a waiver determination is made, the Office shall issue the determination in writing.

(4) On or before [July 31] ~~DECEMBER~~ **OCTOBER 31** each year, the Office shall submit directly to the Board an annual report of waivers requested and waivers granted under this subsection.

(5) The report required under paragraph (4) of this subsection shall contain the following information on those procurement contracts for food where the Office considered a unit's request for waiver of all or a portion of the local farm and Chesapeake invasive species provider goals:

- (i) the contract titles, numbers, and dates;
- (ii) the number of waiver requests received;
- (iii) the number of waiver requests granted; and
- (iv) any other information specifically requested by the Board.

(f) The Board shall keep a record of information regarding any waivers requested in accordance with this section and submit a copy of the record to the Senate **COMMITTEE ON Education, [Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee] ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT** and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before [October 1] ~~FEBRUARY 1~~ **DECEMBER 31** each year, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.