



MARYLAND FARM BUREAU

DAY IN ANNAPOLIS

INFLUENCE. ACTION. IMPACT.

Maryland Farm Bureau depends on champion advocates like you to stand up for policies that affect agriculture in our state. Whether you are a leader or just getting started in Farm Bureau, you can raise your voice to influence policies impacting agriculture. Visiting your legislators and sharing your story is by far the most effective means of conveying your message.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:30 am
Welcome, *Wayne Stafford*

7:40 am
Overview of Bills, *Colby Ferguson and Mac Middleton*

8:30 am
Connecting With Your Legislator

TAKE ACTION

Stay up-to-date with what's happening in Annapolis during the legislative session by visiting our Action Center at www.mdfarmbureau.com/action-center.



SIGN UP FOR ALERTS
Sign up to receive alerts on active campaigns.



FIND LEGISLATION
View and search for legislation. Use keywords to search for specific topics of interest.



SCORECARD
View how your officials voted on key actions.



FIND POLITICIANS
Search for elected officials or candidates by zip code.

SPONSORED BY



YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

BILL SUMMARIES

AGRICULTURAL POLICY & PRODUCT MARKETING

SB 296/HB 558: Land Use – Agritourism – Definition

Senator Gallion; Delegate Clark

This bill adds Camping and Incidental Outdoor Stays to the state definition of Agritourism. The bill does not require the local government to implement new regulation, but instead enables them to include camping on farms as an agritourism activity if the county so chooses.

 MDFB SUPPORTS SB 296 and HB 558

HEARINGS:

SENATE
February 2

HOUSE
February 16

HB 562: Consumer Protection – Right to Repair – Farm Equipment

Delegate Hornberger

This bill requires a farm equipment manufacturer to make available documentation, updates, or information (including the software needed to flash/pair the computer system in the farm equipment) to an independent repair provider or owner of farm equipment to allow for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of the farm equipment. It prohibits a farm equipment manufacturer from knowingly misrepresenting or withholding farm equipment part numbers from a customer.

 MDFB SUPPORTS HB 562


HEARING:

HOUSE
February 23

HB 855/SB ____: Agriculture – Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program and Fund – Establishment

Senator Griffith; Delegate Boyce

This bill establishes the Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the viability of urban farming and community gardens and improve access to urban-grown foods. The Urban Agriculture Water and Power Infrastructure Grant Fund is a special, non-lapsing fund that is funded through the Program Open Space payback money. The program is to be funded for four years starting in FY24 at \$500,000 per year.

 MDFB SUPPORTS HB 855 and the Senate Cross-file

HEARINGS:

**NO HEARINGS
SCHEDULED
YET**

HB ____: Urban Agriculture Grant Program

Delegate Wells

This bill would establish the Statewide Urban Agriculture Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to increase the viability of urban farming and improve access to urban-grown foods. The Fund would be a non-lapsing fund held by the State Treasurer that could also receive monies from the any other source including the Federal Government. Through nonprofits, the program would focus on technical assistance and securing real property and grants for capital improvements for urban farmers.

 MDFB SUPPORTS Delegate Wells House Bill

HEARINGS:

**NO HEARINGS
SCHEDULED
YET**

BILL SUMMARIES

ENERGY

SB800/HB____: Sales and Use Tax – Electricity for Agricultural Purposes – Exemption

Senator Guzzone; Delegate Luedtke

This bill adds to the existing agricultural sales and use tax exemption electricity that is used for agricultural purposes, such as raising livestock and poultry, irrigation, or crop production and grain harvest.

 MDFB SUPPORTS BOTH BILLS

HEARINGS:

NO HEARINGS
SCHEDULED
YET

ENVIRONMENT

HB 11: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022)

Delegate Stewart

This bill alters the definition of “Tier 1 renewable source” for purposes of excluding energy derived from qualifying biomass, methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials, fuel cells, poultry litter-to-energy, waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, and thermal energy from a thermal biomass system from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

 MDFB OPPOSES HB 11

HEARINGS:

NO HEARINGS
SCHEDULED
YET

SB 268/HB 387: Pesticide Regulation – Transfer to Department of the Environment

Senator Kagan; Delegate Ruth

This bill would transfer the regulation of pesticides, plant diseases, and mosquitos in the State from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Environment. MDFB Policy: We strongly oppose consolidation or transfer of any of MDA’s current programs, functions, or authorities to any other department. We strongly support the transfer of all ag-related programs, functions, and authorities from other departments to MDA.

 MDFB OPPOSES SB 268 and HB 387

HEARINGS:

SENATE
February 2

HOUSE
February 9


BILL SUMMARIES

ENVIRONMENT (CONTINUED)

SB783/HB596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Senator Smith; Delegate W. Fisher

This bill proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution, contingent on a referendum, to establish that every person has the right to a certain clean and healthy environment. The bill elaborates that a clean environment is all of the following: clean air, pure water, ecosystems that sustain Maryland's natural resources, which include the waters of the state, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, the preservation of the natural, healthful, scenic, and historic values of the environment, and states that Maryland's natural resources are the common property of every person. This will give citizens in Maryland standing to intervene on any state application process if they believe it interferes with any of those clean environment definitions mentioned above. Some examples would include, CAFOs, irrigation, hemp, new buildings, composting, commercial fishing, and aquaculture permits.

 MDDB OPPOSES HB 596 and the Senate Cross-file

HEARINGS:

HOUSE
February 23

SENATE
None
Scheduled

HB 798: Community Healthy Air Act

Delegate Jalisi

This bill establishes the Committee on Air Quality to create, on or before January 1, 2023, an air quality sampling and monitoring protocol for the collection of air quality and public health data associated with certain large animal-feeding operations. The Committee consists of 8 of the following members: one expert in regulatory compliance, selected by the Office of the Attorney General and then members selected by Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Health and the Dean of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: 1. one expert in air pollution sampling and monitoring; 2. one expert in spatial statistics and monitoring; 3. one expert in exposure science; 4. one expert in environmental epidemiology; 5. one expert in toxicology; 6. one expert in human health risk assessment; and 7. one preventive medicine physician.

 MDDB OPPOSES HB 798

HEARINGS:

HOUSE
February 23

HUNTING/WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 497/HB 592: Deer Management Permit – Hunting on State Land Leased by Permit Holder – Authorization

Senator Gallion; Delegate Jacobs

This bill authorizes an individual who hunts deer under a Deer Management Permit to use a shotgun or breech loading center fired rifle approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons, on State land leased by a permit holder for the purpose of cultivating crops.

 MDDB SUPPORTS SB 497 and HB 592

HEARINGS:

SENATE
None
Scheduled

HOUSE
February 18

BILL SUMMARIES

HUNTING/WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

SB 427/HB 682: Baltimore County – Hunting – Nongame Birds and Mammals

Senator West; Delegate Brooks

This bill repeals a requirement that you must first purchase a hunting license before you can hunt or trap groundhogs in Baltimore County. Farmers continue to have troubles with groundhogs in their fields and barns. If passed, this bill would allow farmers in Baltimore County to follow the same requirements as farmers in every other county in the state. Wildlife, like groundhogs, continue to cause crop and farm equipment damage on Maryland farms around the state. Only in Baltimore County does a farmer and their hired workers need a hunting license to be able to remove problem groundhogs around their farm. This bill cleans up an outdated law and conforms Baltimore County's law with all the other counties in the state that don't require a hunting license to remove groundhogs.

 MDFB SUPPORTS SB 427 and HB 682

HEARINGS:


HOUSE
February 18

SENATE
None
Scheduled

SB 582/HB ____: Natural Resources – Recreation on Private Land – Hunting

Senator Bailey; Delegate Clark

This bill provides that if a landowner directly invites or permits with or without charge an individual to use the landowner's real property for hunting, the invited or permitted individual impliedly consents to adhere to every law, observe every safety precaution and practice, take every precaution against fire, and assume all responsibility and liability for the individual's safety and property while hunting on the landowner's real property.

 MDFB SUPPORTS SB 582 and the House Cross-file

HEARINGS:

NO HEARINGS
SCHEDULED

LABOR

HB 496: Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment

Delegate Wilson

This bill establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to provide benefits to individuals who take sick leave from employment. The bill establishes the Division of Family and Medical Leave Insurance in the Department to administer the Program and establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund. Both the employer and employee would pay into the fund. All size businesses would be included, and this would include self-employed businesses. There are no agriculture exemptions in the bill.

 MDFB OPPOSES HB 496

HEARINGS:

HOUSE
February 15