

HOUSE BILL 1083

E4, M3

3lr2585

By: **Delegates Jacobs, Adams, and Arentz**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Food System Resiliency Council – Invasive Species Coalition – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the minimum duration of the Food System Resiliency Council;
4 establishing the Invasive Species Coalition within the Food System Resiliency
5 Council to make recommendations on the most appropriate actions to reduce the
6 spread of and eradicate invasive species in the State; and generally relating to the
7 Invasive Species Coalition.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Public Safety
10 Section 14–1101(a) and (b) and 14–1103(c)(3)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Public Safety
15 Section 14–1103(a)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Public Safety
20 Section 14–1104
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

25 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 14–1101.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (b) “Council” means the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council.

4 14–1103.

5 (a) The Council shall:

6 (1) meet regularly for a period of at least **[2] 5** years to address food
7 insecurity in the State; and

8 (2) work toward the following goals:

9 (i) to address the food insecurity crisis in the State resulting from
10 the COVID–19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis by:

11 1. coordinating State and local level food insecurity services
12 to support residents of the State;

13 2. tracking and analyzing data to create a comprehensive
14 map of food insecurity across the State and identify the gaps in service;

15 3. leveraging federal and private sector grants and other
16 resources in order to address food insecurity needs;

17 4. advising the State on how best to allocate resources and
18 increase efficiency; and

19 5. A. exploring the role of and potential for the federal
20 Community Eligibility Provision to ensure all students in the State are fed; and

21 B. making recommendations to the Maryland State
22 Department of Education and the Maryland General Assembly to implement relevant
23 findings under item A. of this item;

24 (ii) to develop, on or before November 1, 2021, equity and
25 sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long–term resiliency of the food
26 system, including:

27 1. addressing and eliminating racial inequities in the food
28 system;

29 2. addressing and eliminating diet–related public health
30 disparities;

1 3. addressing and eliminating food deserts; and

2 4. reducing food waste, increasing recycling, and
3 encouraging other relevant environmental impacts;

4 (iii) to expand the impact of existing food council organizations by:

5 1. providing coordination and facilitation of knowledge
6 exchange at the State level; and

7 2. supporting identification and application of grants to
8 operating funds to support existing and new food council organizations as needed; and

9 (iv) to develop, on or before November 1, 2021, a strategic plan to
10 increase the production and procurement of Maryland certified food, including:

11 1. increasing the quality and quantity of production, as well
12 as aggregation, marketing, and distribution of local food in urban, suburban, and rural
13 settings;

14 2. increasing procurement of local food through schools,
15 universities, and other institutions;

16 3. creating additional market opportunities for Maryland
17 food businesses; and

18 4. expanding access to small scale manufacturing and food
19 production infrastructure.

20 (c) (3) On or before November 1, 2023, and each year thereafter, the Council
21 shall submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
22 Government Article, on key findings and activities undertaken by the Council.

23 **14–1104.**

24 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COALITION” MEANS THE INVASIVE SPECIES**
25 **COALITION.**

26 **(B) THERE IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES COALITION WITHIN THE COUNCIL.**

27 **(C) THE COALITION SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST SIX MEMBERS OF THE**
28 **COUNCIL WITH EXPERTISE IN INVASIVE SPECIES, INCLUDING BLUE CATFISH AND**
29 **SNAKEHEADS.**

(D) THE PURPOSE OF THE COALITION IS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MOST APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF AND ERADICATE INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE STATE.

(E) THE COALITION SHALL:

(1) MONITOR AND TRACK THE CONTAINMENT LEVELS OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE STATE;

(2) RESEARCH:

(I) DETECTION AND CONTROL MEASURES; AND

(II) ERADICATION METHODS;

(3) STUDY AND ANALYZE THE FINANCIAL IMPACT INVASIVE SPECIES HAVE ON THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IN THE STATE;

(4) RESEARCH BLUE CATFISH HARVESTING, INCLUDING:

(I) HARVESTING METHODS AND TECHNOLOGY;

(II) THE NUMBER AND PRODUCTIVITY OF THE AGGREGATION CENTERS IN THE STATE;

(III) PROCESSING AND THE YIELD OF BLUE CATFISH;

(IV) PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION, AND POTENTIAL MARKETS; AND

(V) THE PRICE PER POUND FOR BLUE CATFISH IN THE STATE COMPARED TO OTHER STATES;

(5) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL PLAN TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE STATE; AND

(6) HOLD AT LEAST ONE PUBLIC MEETING PER YEAR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE ISSUE OF COMBATting INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE STATE.

(F) THE COALITION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNCIL, SHALL INCLUDE IN THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 14-1103(C)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE THE

1 COALITION'S FINDINGS AND THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL PLAN DEVELOPED
2 UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2023.