

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 1223  
 Health

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Finance

Prince George's County Workgroup on Farmers Markets and Street Vending  
 Zones  
 PG 411-26

This bill establishes a Prince George’s County Workgroup on Farmers Markets and Street Vending Zones. The Prince George’s County Executive must designate the chair of the workgroup and the Prince George’s County Council must provide staff. The workgroup must (1) identify and review any current regulations or permitting for farmers markets and street vending; (2) examine how other counties regulate or permit farmers markets and street vendors; (3) identify any safety, health, or environmental concerns related to farmers markets and street vendors; (4) identify any community concerns about farmers markets and street vendors; and (5) make recommendations on establishing a framework for regulation and permitting of farmers markets and street vendors. A member of the workgroup may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses. By December 1, 2026, the workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the chairs of the Prince George’s County delegations, the chair of the County Council, and the County Executive. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, and terminates June 30, 2027.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill only affects local government operations.

**Local Effect:** Prince George’s County expenditures increase by an indeterminate amount in FY 2027 only for staff to support the workgroup, as discussed below. Prince George’s County revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The workgroup consists of the chairs of the Prince George's County Senate and House delegations (or their designees), the County Executive (or their designee), representatives of the County Council, and several community stakeholders appointed by the Speaker of the House and the Prince George's County Executive.

**Current Law:** A "mobile food service facility" is a food service facility that (1) is a vehicle mechanically, electrically, manually, or otherwise propelled; (2) operates on land or water; and (3) changes its location as part of its routine sales operation.

"Raw agricultural products" include whole, unprocessed grains, flowers, herbs, nuts, fruits, and vegetables supplied directly from the farm on which they were produced and any agricultural product the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) identifies in regulation.

A "cottage food business" is a business that (1) produces or packages cottage food products in a residential kitchen in Maryland; (2) sells cottage food products; and (3) has annual revenues from the sale of cottage food products that do not exceed \$50,000.

A "cottage food product" is a nonhazardous food that is sold in the State (1) directly to a consumer from a residence, at a farmer's market, at a public event, by personal delivery, or by mail delivery, or (2) to a retail food store, including a grocery store or food cooperative.

A cottage food business does not need to be licensed by MDH if it complies with applicable laws and regulations. Before selling cottage food products, the business owner must submit to MDH (1) documentation of successful completion of a food safety course and (2) the label that will be affixed to the cottage food product. MDH provides each cottage food business with a unique identification number, which must be included in their labeling.

Under Maryland regulations (COMAR 10.15.03.27), a cottage food business may offer for sale certain prepared homemade foods when the foods are made in a private home kitchen and offered or sold only in the State in several specified places, including directly to a consumer at a farmer's market.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Prince George's County advises that county expenditures increase by a total of \$483,964 in fiscal 2027 for staff to support the workgroup from the Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD) and the County Council.

PGCHD advises that it would need to hire one environmental health specialist to participate in the workgroup as the summer months are a high season for inspections and current staff are fully subscribed. PGCHD assumes that this would be a permanent position, as the

individual would be responsible for enforcement upon passage of subsequent legislation. PGCHD advises that expenditures increase by \$146,464 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2026 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one full-time environmental health specialist to serve on the workgroup.

The Prince George's County Council advises that two additional staff are required to staff the workgroup – a director to manage the workgroup and an aide to handle administrative tasks. Under these assumptions, Prince George's County expenditures increase by \$337,500 in fiscal 2027, which accounts for the bill's July 1, 2026 effective date.

Given that the workgroup is short-term, the Department of Legislative Services advises that three full-time staff are not required. As the responsibilities incurred by this legislation are not permanent, any staffing may be performed by contractual employees. Thus, Prince George's County expenditures increase by an indeterminate amount in fiscal 2027 only for contractual staff to support the workgroup. All staff are assumed to terminate upon submission of the report (due December 1, 2026). Any staffing expenditures are not accounted for in the county's fiscal 2027 budget.

**Additional Comments:** The bill indicates that members of the workgroup are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget. However, as there are no State agencies involved in the workgroup, this analysis assumes that Prince George's County would be responsible for any reimbursements.

PGCHD advises that, if the county chooses to set up street food vending zones based on workgroup recommendations, illegal food vending may continue or increase, as most illegal food vendors do not meet and cannot meet Maryland regulatory standards based on their operations and finances.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Calvert and Prince George's counties; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2026  
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