

Prince George's County Council

Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 9/9/2014
Reference No.: CB-037-2014
Draft No.: 2
Proposer(s): Lehman
Sponsor(s): Lehman, Toles, Olson, Franklin, Davis, Patterson
Item Title: An Act encouraging and supporting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) acceptance and processing technology at farmer's markets.

Drafter: Leroy D. Maddox, Jr., Legislative Officer
Resource Personnel: Matthew A. Dernoga, Citizens Services Assistant District 1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	6/3/2014	Executive Action:	9/19/2014 S
Committee Referral:	6/3/2014 - HEHS	Effective Date:	1/1/2015

Committee Action: 7/15/2014 - FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 7/23/2014
Public Hearing: 9/9/2014 - 1:30 PM

Council Action (1) 9/9/2014 - ENACTED
Council Votes: WC:A, DLD:A, MRF:A, AH:A, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

12-116, 12-117, 12-118, 12-119, 12-120

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date 7/15/2014

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Patterson, Davis, Lehman and Turner)

Staff provided a summary of the legislation and referral comments that were received. CB-37-2014 adds Subtitle 12, Division 2, Subdivision 4 to the Prince George's County Code to establish the SNAP to Health Program (the "Program") to be administered by the Prince George's County Health Department and to provide for initial program funding, grant assistance, outreach and advertising for farmer's markets.

The Program shall provide technical assistance to farmer's markets in acquiring the technology needed to accept benefits under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). The Program will also provide training to farmer's markets to assist managers in utilizing a system that accepts and processes SNAP benefits and with reporting requirements.

One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) in initial funding is approved for FY 2015 with the Health Department establishing guidelines to implement provisions of this bill by January 1, 2015.

The Health Officer indicated that this bill will offer increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables to the community and aligns with the Health Department's mission to create a healthier County. The Health Officer further stated that there are currently 21 farmer's markets in the County of which six (6) have the technology to accept SNAP. The outreach efforts and educational component is instrumental in the success of this program to the SNAP recipients and the general population in making the citizens aware of the farmer's markets in the county.

The Director of the Department of Social Services provided written comments indicating that their position is from a marketing perspective to their customers.

The Committee considered CB-37-2014 Draft 2 with amendments that were merely clarifying language.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that CB-37-2014 if enacted will result in a negative impact to the County of \$100,000, which is the amount of the funding appropriated in the FY 2015 budget.

The Office of the County Executive has reviewed the legislation and has provided favorable recommendation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

Greater access to fresh foods is important for Prince George's County residents. Most farmer's markets in Prince George's County do not have SNAP acceptance technology. Such technology would enhance access to fresh foods by Prince George's County residents particularly in areas deemed as "food deserts" by the United States Department of Agriculture.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
