

Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness

Legislative Bill Review Meeting

January 17, 2023 9:00-9:30 am

Minutes

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness held a public meeting on 01/17/2023, called to order at 9:01am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Salliann Alborn
Mary Backley
Crystal Bell
Felicia Brannon
Jennifer Eastman
Mychelle Farmer
Gary Gerstenblith
Katie Hall
Jessica Kiel
Namisa Kramer
Jared Meacham
Vaple Robinson
Marsha Seidelman
Jason Semanoff
Teresa Titus-Howard
Pamela Williams

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jonathan Dayton
Roger Harrell
Julie Maneen
Seth Martin
Aruna Nathan
Rachel Pigott
Vivienne Rose
Afton Thomas
Sarah Vazer
Kristin Watson
Pamela Xenakis

MDH STAFF PRESENT

Kristi Pier
Jessica Rose-Malm

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

NONE.

I. Open Legislative Bill Review Meeting

Jessica Kiel, Chair, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Kristi Pier took roll call. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, however several members joined after roll call and a quorum was present at the time of the position vote.

II. Presentation and Discussion of HB 8 - Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports

Jessica Rose-Malm presented a brief summary of HB 8, the points of discussion among ad hoc legislative work group members, and the draft letter of support with amendments. HB 8 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with other agencies, to produce Food Environment Reports for all of Maryland counties and state legislative districts every two years. The ad hoc legislative committee drafted a letter of support with amendments for HB 8, citing the importance of access to nutritious food for

chronic disease prevention and management, and the particular importance for people who are food insecure. The draft letter suggests additional information regarding demographics, food affordability, and additional food access points be added to the Food Environment Reports. The draft letter also recommends including provision for how the Reports would be made available for public use.

Council members discussed whether additional agencies (e.g., Department of Health, Department of Human Services) should also post and publicize the Reports to ensure key stakeholders are aware of the information. Council members felt adding further agency requirements would complicate the bill and thus decided to move forward with the Letter of Support with Amendments as written.

III. Public Comment

Jessica Kiel invited members of the public to provide comment, however no members of the public were present.

IV. HB 8 Position Vote- Letter of Support with Amendments

Mychelle Farmer moved to vote on the letter of support with amendments; Salliann Alborn seconded the motion. A vote was called and 13 members voted to approve the letter and 3 members abstained. The motion passed and the letter of support with amendments was approved.

V. Closing

Jessica Kiel closed the meeting at 9:29am.
