

Introduced \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Hearing \_\_\_\_\_  
Council Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 10

### Bill No. 49-2024

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

Short Title: Emergency Appropriations- Economic Development Authority – Farmer Grants

Title: AN ACT making emergency appropriations pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter and amending the Annual Budget and Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025 to provide additional spending authority in the Economic Development Authority for farmer grants; and declaring that this Act is an Emergency Bill necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.

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Introduced and read first time \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 and Passed \_\_\_\_, Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 at \_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

By order \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1           **WHEREAS**, Council Bill No. 27-2024 (CB27) is known as the Annual Budget and  
2 Appropriation Ordinance of Howard County, Fiscal Year 2025 and contains the capital and  
3 operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025; and  
4

5           **WHEREAS**, the Maryland State Climatologist reported that in 2024 the summer months  
6 in Howard County have so far been among the warmest in county history, with mean  
7 temperatures hitting 3.6°F above normal in June and 3.3°F above normal in July; the month of  
8 June was the third hottest June on record for Howard County, while maximum temperatures in  
9 July reached the fifth warmest levels for this month in Howard County history; and  
10

11           **WHEREAS**, the Maryland State Climatologist also reported that in 2024 precipitation in  
12 Howard County has been drier than normal, totaling about half the level of normal precipitation  
13 for the months of June and July, taking the County from abnormally dry conditions in June to  
14 moderate drought conditions in July, which typically result in low water supply and damage to  
15 crops; and  
16

17           **WHEREAS**, the recent heat and drought conditions have posed significant challenges  
18 for Howard County farms, leading to notable crop losses and a rise in input costs that negatively  
19 affects County farmers and impact the broader agricultural community; and  
20

21           **WHEREAS**, the County would like to provide grant assistance to farmers impacted by  
22 this summer’s drought-like conditions and to farmers impacted by climate change; and  
23

24           **WHEREAS**, in order to provide such grant assistance, funding needs to be increased to  
25 the Economic Development Authority, who will be awarding the grants; and  
26

27           **WHEREAS**, funding will come from unrestricted fund balance in the Agricultural  
28 Preservation and Promotion Fund; and  
29

30           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 15.500 of the Howard County Code, the purpose of the

1 Agricultural Preservation and Promotion Fund is to “protect the health, safety and well-being of  
2 present and future residents of Howard County by advancing the sustainability of agriculture as a  
3 viable sector of the County's economy;” and

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 610(b) of the Howard County Charter, this Emergency  
6 Bill is necessary to meet a public emergency affecting life, health or property.

7  
8 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

9  
10 **Section 1. *Be It Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the following  
11 *emergency appropriation to the Economic Development Authority is authorized and approved for*  
12 *the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, as shown below:*

13  
14 **Economic Development Authority**

15 D000 – Economic Development Authority

16 Fiscal Year 2025 Agricultural Preservation and

17 Promotion Fund Appropriation before transfer \$734,000

18 Plus Additional Appropriation \$1,000,000

19 Fiscal Year 2025 Agricultural Preservation and

20 Promotion Fund Appropriation after transfer \$1,734,000

21  
22 **Section 2. *And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that  
23 *in the current expense budget and any Fund Statements attached to Council Bill No. 27-2024 or*  
24 *incorporated by reference, all subtotals, totals, and other calculated figures shall be adjusted, as*  
25 *needed, to accommodate this Act.*

26  
27 **Section 3. *And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that  
28 *this Act is adopted as an emergency measure to address an immediate public emergency*  
29 *affecting life, health or property and having been passed by two-thirds of its members, this Act*  
30 *shall be effective immediately upon its enactment.*