



BILL NO.: House Bill 167  
TITLE: Seasonal Farmer's Market Producer Sampling License  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**  
DATE: February 2, 2010  
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations  
CONTACT: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 167. This bill authorizes a county to establish a license to allow a producer of a farm product to prepare and offer samples at a farmer's market. The license, issued by the county, would be valid at all farmers' markets in the county for a specified time frame for a single fee. In addition, each county that chooses to issue the license would need to adopt certain ordinances.

MACo has discussed this bill with its health officer affiliate, the Maryland Association of County Health Officers (MACHO), and believes it will promote the farming industry in the State. Many local jurisdictions have farms that produce products, but they do not have a market to advertise and distribute them. This bill will enable farmers to offer samples of their products to create this market.

MACo is aware of clarifying amendments being offered by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and is comfortable with them. These amendments will provide for statewide consistency in the licensing and regulation of farmer's markets.

For this reason, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 167 and urges a favorable report.