

By: Representatives Currie, Wallace,
Summers, Hudson, Yates

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 115

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE
2 KNOWN AS THE "HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES FUND"; TO PROVIDE THAT USING
3 MONIES APPROPRIATED FROM THE FUND, THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
4 HUMAN SERVICES SHALL MAKE AN ANNUAL GRANT TO A QUALIFIED
5 MISSISSIPPI NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
6 GRANT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PARTICIPATING MISSISSIPPI FARMERS
7 MARKETS AND RETAILERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MATCHING DOLLAR
8 INCENTIVES FOR THE DOLLAR VALUE OF SNAP BENEFITS SPENT ON ELIGIBLE
9 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT PARTICIPATING MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKETS
10 AND DIRECT PRODUCER-TO-CONSUMER VENUES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created in the State Treasury a
13 special fund to be known as the "Healthy Food Incentives Fund,"
14 which shall consist of funds made available by the Legislature in
15 any manner and funds from any other source designated for deposit
16 into the fund. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the
17 end of a fiscal year shall not lapse into the State General Fund,
18 and any investment earnings or interest earned on amounts in the
19 fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund. Monies in the
20 fund shall be used by the Mississippi Department of Human
21 Services, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes
22 provided in this section.



23 (2) Using monies appropriated from Healthy Food Incentives
24 Fund, the Mississippi Department of Human Services shall make an
25 annual grant to a qualified Mississippi nonprofit organization or
26 agency, which shall be distributed to participating Mississippi
27 farmers markets and retailers for the purpose of providing
28 matching dollar incentives up to the amount specified by the
29 department, for the dollar value of Supplemental Nutrition
30 Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits spent on eligible fruits and
31 vegetables at participating Mississippi farmers markets and direct
32 producer-to-consumer venues.

33 (3) The Mississippi nonprofit organization or agency
34 selected by the department to receive the grant must have a
35 demonstrated track record of:

36 (a) Building a statewide network;

37 (b) Implementing funds distribution and reporting
38 processes;

39 (c) Providing training and technical assistance to
40 farmers markets and direct producer-to-consumer venues;

41 (d) Conducting community outreach and data collection;
42 and

43 (e) Providing full accounting and administration of
44 funds distributed to farmers markets.

45 (3) At least ninety percent (90%) of the money in the
46 Healthy Food Incentive Fund shall be distributed to participating
47 Mississippi farmers markets and retailers for healthy food



48 incentives. Not more than ten percent (10%) of the money in the
49 Healthy Food Incentive Fund may be used for state program
50 development, promotion and outreach, farmers market and retailer
51 training and capacity building, technical assistance, program data
52 collection, evaluation, administration, reporting, and program
53 implementation.

54 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
55 and after July 1, 2021.

