

By: Representatives Mangold, Pigott,
Felsher, Summers, Stamps, Karriem, Anthony,
McCarty

To: Agriculture

HOUSE BILL NO. 555

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS AND
2 INCENTIVE PROGRAM; TO DEFINE THE TERMS "ELIGIBLE FRUITS AND
3 VEGETABLES" AND "ELIGIBLE RETAILERS"; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF
4 AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO MISSISSIPPI
5 FARMERS MARKETS AND RETAILERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING
6 MATCHING DOLLAR INCENTIVES FOR THE DOLLAR VALUE OF ELIGIBLE FRUITS
7 AND VEGETABLES AT FARMERS MARKETS AND RETAILERS; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) This act shall be known and may be cited as
11 the "Mississippi Healthy Food Access and Incentive Program."

12 (2) For purposes of this act, the following terms shall have
13 the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates
14 otherwise:

15 (a) "Eligible fruits and vegetables" means any fresh or
16 frozen, whole or cut fruits and vegetables that do not contain
17 added sugar, fat, oil or salt.

18 (b) "Eligible retailers" means a small business whose
19 principal office is located in Mississippi and that has a
20 demonstrated commitment to procuring Mississippi-grown foods,
21 including fruits and vegetables.



22 (3) Subject to appropriation, the Mississippi Department of
23 Agriculture and Commerce shall fund qualified nonprofit
24 organizations, who will distribute incentive dollars to
25 participating Mississippi farmers markets and retailers, for
26 developing a nutrition incentive program to double the purchasing
27 power of Mississippi residents with limited access to fresh fruits
28 and vegetables, support farmers and invest in Mississippi's local
29 economy.

30 (4) The designated nonprofit organizations shall have a
31 demonstrated track record of:

32 (a) Building a statewide network;

33 (b) Implementing such funds for distribution and
34 reporting processes;

35 (c) Providing training and technical assistance to
36 farmers markets, produce stands, and direct producer-to-consumer
37 venues;

38 (d) Conducting community outreach and data collection;
39 and

40 (e) Providing full accounting and administration of
41 funds distributed to farmers markets and retailers.

42 (5) At least ninety percent (90%) of the money deposited
43 into the Mississippi Healthy Food Access and Incentive Program
44 shall be distributed to participating Mississippi farmers markets,
45 produce stands and retailers for healthy food incentives. A
46 maximum of ten percent (10%) of the money deposited into the



47 Mississippi Healthy Food Access and Incentive Program may be used
48 for administrative costs.

49 (6) Guidelines and eligibility for the Mississippi Healthy
50 Food Access and Incentive Program will be established by the
51 Department of Agriculture, consistent with the U.S. Agriculture
52 Improvement Act of 2018.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after its passage.

