

By: Representatives Mangold, Pigott, Stamps, To: Agriculture
Karriem

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 555

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

31 (a) Building a statewide network;

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

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

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

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

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



46 Healthy Food and Families Program may be used for administrative
47 costs.

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

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

