

By: Representatives Massengill, Felsher,
Hulum

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 15

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
2 TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL FOOD BANKS TO PROVIDE
3 ANNUAL GRANT FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE
4 FOOD BANKS FOR THE PURCHASE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND
5 DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT SUCH GRANTS
6 SHALL BE MADE FROM FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THAT
7 PURPOSE; TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDS FOR FOOD PURCHASES MADE THROUGH
8 THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL
9 ALLOCATE MONEY TO REGIONAL FOOD BANKS SERVING MISSISSIPPIANS BASED
10 ON POPULATION, FOOD INSECURITY RATES AND COUNTY SERVICE AREAS; TO
11 PROVIDE A LIMIT ON THE PERCENTAGE OF GRANT FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE
12 THROUGH THE PROGRAM THAT MAY BE USED BY ANY REGIONAL FOOD BANK FOR
13 THE PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND INCIDENTAL COSTS; TO PROVIDE
14 THAT PERSONS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD FUNDED BY THE PROGRAM BASED
15 ON FEDERAL GUIDELINES SHALL NOT BE CHARGED FOR FOOD OR ENCOURAGED
16 TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FOOD UNDER THE PROGRAM;
17 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the term "regional
20 food banks" means the three (3) Feeding America network food banks
21 that serve Mississippi, including Feeding the Gulf Coast,
22 Mid-South Food Bank and Mississippi Food Network, which are
23 nonprofit organizations that solicit, warehouse and redistribute
24 eligible food to agencies in Mississippi that feed families and
25 individuals who qualify based on federal guidelines.



26 (2) The Mississippi Department of Human Services
27 (department) shall establish a grant program for regional food
28 banks to provide annual grant funding in the amount of One Million
29 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) to the food banks for the purchase,
30 transportation, storage and distribution of food in Mississippi.
31 Such grants shall be made from funds made available to the
32 department for that purpose. Grants made under the program shall
33 be used only for the purchase of food or agricultural commodities
34 for repackaging or processing, or both, of food for distribution
35 to emergency food providers serving Mississippi and program
36 participants residing in Mississippi.

37 (3) The program shall be administered by the department and
38 all administrative costs shall be reimbursed to the department at
39 a rate of not more than one percent (1%) from the funds described
40 in subsection (2) of this section.

41 (4) All food purchases made through the use of program funds
42 shall be made in accordance with the following standards:

43 (a) Procurement from Mississippi based food sources
44 should be given preference when available and at reasonable cost;

45 (b) Food shall be purchased at wholesale, competitive
46 bid prices or better; and

47 (c) Funds for food through this program shall be used
48 to supplement and not replace food or funds available for food
49 through the United States Department of Agriculture's federal
50 commodities program.



52 (5) The department shall allocate money to regional food
53 banks serving Mississippians based on population, food insecurity
54 rates and county service areas. The annual percentage formula for
55 each nonprofit food bank will be the total number of food insecure
56 persons in the food bank's service area divided by the total
57 number of food insecure persons in the state. The data for this
58 formula shall be derived from the latest available data from
59 Feeding America.

60 (6) Not more than seven percent (7%) of the grant funds made
61 available through the program shall be used by any regional food
62 bank for the payment of administrative and incidental costs.

63 (7) No person who is eligible for food funded by the program
64 based on federal guidelines shall be charged for food or
65 encouraged to contribute money in order to receive food under the
66 program.

67 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
68 and after July 1, 2023.

