

By: Senator(s) Younger, Whaley, Butler
(38th), Parker, Boyd, Simmons (12th), Simmons
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Chassaniol, Hickman, Blount, Moran, Barnett,
Seymour, Jackson (11th)

To: Agriculture;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2077
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI HEALTHY FOOD AND FAMILIES
2 PROGRAM" WHICH REQUIRES THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
3 COMMERCE, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION, TO FUND QUALIFIED MISSISSIPPI
4 NONPROFITS TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS TO MISSISSIPPI FARMERS MARKETS AND
5 RETAILERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MATCHING DOLLAR INCENTIVES
6 FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS SPENT ON
7 ELIGIBLE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT FARMERS MARKETS AND RETAILERS;
8 AND FOR RELATED 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 and Families Program."

12 (2) Subject to appropriation, the Mississippi Department of
13 Agriculture and Commerce shall fund qualified nonprofit
14 organizations that shall distribute incentive dollars to
15 participating Mississippi farmers markets and retailers for
16 developing a nutrition incentive program to double the purchasing
17 power of Mississippi residents with limited access to fresh fruits
18 and vegetables, support farmers, and invest in Mississippi's local
19 economy.

20 (3) The designated nonprofit organizations shall have a
21 demonstrated track record of:



- 22 (a) Building a statewide network;
- 23 (b) Implementing such funds for distribution and
24 reporting processes;
- 25 (c) Providing training and technical assistance to
26 farmers markets, produce stands, and direct producer-to-consumer
27 venues;
- 28 (d) Conducting community outreach and data collection;
29 and
- 30 (e) Providing full accounting and administration of
31 funds distributed to farmers markets and retailers.

32 (4) At least ninety percent (90%) of the money deposited
33 into the Mississippi Healthy Food and Families Program shall be
34 distributed to participating Mississippi farmers markets, produce
35 stands, and retailers for healthy food incentives. A maximum of
36 ten percent (10%) of the money deposited into the Mississippi
37 Healthy Food and Families Program may be used for administrative
38 costs.

39 (5) Guidelines and eligibility for the Mississippi Healthy
40 Food and Families Program shall be established by the Department
41 of Agriculture, consistent with the U.S. Agriculture Improvement
42 Act of 2018. For the purposes of this program, "eligible fruits
43 and vegetables" means any fresh or frozen, whole or cut fruits and
44 vegetables that do not contain added sugar, fat, oil or salt.
45 "Eligible retailers" means a small business whose principal office
46 is located in Mississippi and that has a demonstrated commitment



47 to procuring Mississippi-grown foods, including fruits and
48 vegetables.

49 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
50 and after July 1, 2022.

