

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Farmers' market" means a nontraditional fresh food  
8 market, licensed by the United States Department of  
9 Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service to accept SNAP  
10 benefits, where farmers or growers sell a variety of fresh  
11 fruits and vegetables and other locally-grown farm products  
12 directly to consumers.

13 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card  
14 issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of  
15 enabling a user of the card to obtain SNAP (formerly known as  
16 food stamps) benefits or cash.

17 Section 10. Farmers' Market Technology Improvement  
18 Program.

19 (a) The Department of Human Services and the Department of  
20 Agriculture shall implement a Farmers' Market Technology  
21 Improvement Program. The purpose of this program is to increase  
22 access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other LINK eligible

1 food products, including quality meat and dairy, for all  
2 Illinois residents by allowing LINK program participants to  
3 redeem their SNAP benefits at farmers' markets. The Department  
4 of Human Services and the Department of Agriculture shall  
5 solicit federal and State funding for the purpose of  
6 implementing this program.

7 (b) The Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Fund is  
8 created as a special fund in the State Treasury for the purpose  
9 of implementing the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement  
10 Program. All monies received pursuant to this Act shall be  
11 deposited into the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement  
12 Fund. Funding for the program must be used for one or more of  
13 the following purposes:

14 (1) The purchase or rental of wireless point of sale  
15 terminals capable of processing SNAP benefits disbursed  
16 under the LINK program.

17 (2) Monthly or transaction fees associated with LINK  
18 card transactions. No fees related to credit or debit  
19 transactions will be reimbursed.

20 (3) Outreach to LINK program participants.

21 Section 15. Implementation of regulations. The Department  
22 of Human Services shall adopt necessary rules and shall  
23 implement the program by March 31, 2011.

24 Section 20. The State Finance Act is amended by adding

1 Section 5.755 as follows:

2 (30 ILCS 105/5.755 new)

3 Sec. 5.755. The Farmers' Market Technology Improvement  
4 Fund.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
6 2010.