

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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

4 Section 5. The Grocery Initiative Act is amended by
5 changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 750/15)

7 Sec. 15. Grocery Initiative Grants and Financial Support.

8 (a) The Department shall, subject to appropriation,
9 establish the Grocery Initiative to expand access to healthy
10 foods in food deserts in Illinois and areas at risk of becoming
11 food deserts in Illinois by providing grants and other forms
12 of financial assistance to independently owned for-profit
13 grocery stores, cooperative grocery stores, or not-for-profit
14 grocery stores, as well as grocery stores owned and operated
15 by local governmental units. The Department may enter into
16 contracts, grants, or other agreements to administer these
17 grants and other forms of financial assistance. The Department
18 may, by rule, place limits on the size of the grocery stores
19 that are eligible for grants and other financial assistance
20 under this Act, including, but not limited to, limits on the
21 annual revenue or projected revenue of the applicant, number
22 of full-time employees, or square footage of the facilities.
23 The Department may prioritize grant awards and loan funding to

1 applicants based on poverty rates, income, geographic
2 diversity, local ownership, access to grocery stores in the
3 area surrounding proposed project locations, and other factors
4 as determined by the Department. The Department may award
5 grants or provide loans for any one or more of the following:

6 (1) market and site feasibility studies, promotional
7 materials, and marketing;

8 (2) salaries and benefits for workers;

9 (3) rent or a down payment to acquire a facility;

10 (4) purchase of ownership of a grocery store as part
11 of establishing a new grocery store;

12 (5) capital improvements, planning, renovations, land
13 acquisition, demolition, durable and non-durable equipment
14 purchases; or

15 (6) other costs as determined eligible by the
16 Department.

17 (b) The Department may, subject to appropriation, provide
18 grants for equipment upgrades for existing independently owned
19 for-profit grocery stores, cooperative grocery stores, ~~or~~
20 not-for-profit grocery stores, or farmer-owned grocery stores
21 or markets. The Department shall use no more than 20% of total
22 program funding for this purpose. Equipment upgrades shall be
23 focused on providing access to equipment that is energy
24 efficient.

25 (Source: P.A. 103-561, eff. 1-1-24.)