

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 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.878 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.878 new)

7 Sec. 5.878. The Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund.

8 Section 10. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
9 adding Section 12-4.50 as follows:

10 (305 ILCS 5/12-4.50 new)

11 Sec. 12-4.50. Healthy Local Food Incentives Program.

12 (a) Legislative findings. Diet and other lifestyle choices
13 contribute to more than half of all deaths in Illinois. Health
14 risk factors include smoking, obesity, stress, nutrition, high
15 blood pressure, and alcohol and drug use. Illinois residents
16 should be encouraged to adopt diets and lifestyles that lead to
17 wellness. The State can help provide that encouragement by
18 funding wellness programs that enhance the health of Illinois
19 residents. Healthy local food incentives encourage wellness
20 among some of the most vulnerable residents of Illinois (those
21 whose incomes are below the poverty line and who often have

1 limited access to fresh, healthy, and affordable foods) by
2 doubling the purchasing power of LINK cardholders at farmers
3 markets across the State. The benefits of such a program
4 include: an increase in population health, Medicaid health care
5 cost savings, decreased incidence of preventable diseases,
6 increased revenue for Illinois small farmers, and economic
7 stimulus for the region.

8 (b) Definitions. As used in this Section:

9 "FINI eligible fruits and vegetables" means any variety of
10 fresh, canned, dried, or frozen whole or cut fruits and
11 vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils, and salt (i.e.
12 sodium), as defined by the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive
13 Grant Program administered by the United States Department of
14 Agriculture.

15 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card
16 issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of
17 enabling a user of the card to obtain SNAP benefits or cash.

18 "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
19 Program.

20 (c) The Department of Human Services shall establish a
21 Healthy Local Food Incentives Program to double the purchasing
22 power of Illinois residents with limited access to fresh fruits
23 and vegetables. The Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund is
24 created as a special fund in the State treasury for the purpose
25 of implementing the Healthy Local Food Incentives Program. All
26 moneys received pursuant to this Section shall be deposited

1 into the Healthy Local Food Incentives Fund.

2 (d) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Human
3 Services shall make an annual grant of \$500,000 from the Fund
4 to a qualified Illinois non-profit organization or agency,
5 which shall be distributed to participating Illinois farmers
6 markets for the purpose of providing matching dollar incentives
7 (up to a specified amount) for the dollar value of SNAP
8 benefits spent on FINI eligible fruits and vegetables at
9 participating Illinois farmers markets and direct
10 producer-to-consumer venues.

11 (e) The designated qualified non-profit organization or
12 agency shall have a demonstrated track record of:

13 (1) building a statewide network;

14 (2) designing and implementing successful healthy food
15 incentive programs that connect SNAP recipients with local
16 producers;

17 (3) implementing funds distribution and reporting
18 processes;

19 (4) providing training and technical assistance to
20 farmers markets;

21 (5) conducting community outreach and data collection;
22 and

23 (6) providing full accounting and administration of
24 funds distributed to farmers markets.

25 (f) 100% of the moneys deposited into the Fund shall be
26 distributed to participating Illinois farmers markets for

1 healthy local food incentives.

2 (g) Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, the
3 designated qualified non-profit organization or agency shall
4 submit a progress report to the Department of Human Services.

5 The progress report shall include the following information:

6 (1) the names and locations of Illinois farmers markets
7 and direct producer-to-consumer venues that received funds
8 distributed under the Program;

9 (2) the dollar amount of funds awarded to each
10 participating Illinois farmers market and direct
11 producer-to-consumer venue;

12 (3) the dollar amount of SNAP benefits, and funds
13 provided under the Program, that were spent at Illinois
14 farmers markets participating in the Program, as well as
15 the dollar amount of any unspent funds available under the
16 Program;

17 (4) the number of SNAP transactions carried out
18 annually at participating Illinois farmers markets;

19 (5) the impact of the Program on increasing the
20 quantity of fresh fruits and vegetables consumed by SNAP
21 families, as determined by customer surveys.

22 (h) No later than December 31, 2017, the Department of
23 Human Services shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of
24 this Section.

25 (i) This Section is repealed on June 30, 2019.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.