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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 352

01/26/2015 Authored by Anderson, S.; Hamilton; Norton; Halverson; Dettmer and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform  
02/23/2015 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; establishing the healthy eating, here at home  
1.3 program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota  
1.4 Statutes, chapter 256E.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [256E.345] HEALTHY EATING, HERE AT HOME.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The healthy eating, here at home program is  
1.8 established to provide incentives for low-income Minnesotans to use federal Supplemental  
1.9 Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for healthy purchases at Minnesota-based  
1.10 farmers' markets.

1.11 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

1.12 (b) "Healthy eating, here at home" means a program administered by the  
1.13 commissioner to provide incentives for low-income Minnesotans to use SNAP benefits for  
1.14 healthy purchases at Minnesota-based farmers' markets.

1.15 (c) "Healthy purchases" means SNAP-eligible foods.

1.16 (d) "Minnesota-based farmers' market" means a physical market as defined in section  
1.17 28A.151, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and also includes mobile markets.

1.18 (e) "Voucher" means a physical or electronic credit.

1.19 (f) "Eligible household" means an individual or family that is determined to be a  
1.20 recipient of SNAP.

1.21 Subd. 3. Grants. The commissioner shall allocate grant funds to nonprofit  
1.22 organizations that work with Minnesota-based farmers' markets to provide up to \$10  
1.23 vouchers to SNAP participants who use electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards for  
1.24 healthy purchases. Funds may also be provided for vouchers distributed through nonprofit

2.1 organizations engaged in healthy cooking and food education outreach to eligible  
2.2 households for use at farmers' markets. Funds appropriated under this section may not  
2.3 be used for healthy cooking classes or food education outreach. When awarding grants,  
2.4 the commissioner must consider how the nonprofit organizations will achieve geographic  
2.5 balance, including specific efforts to reach eligible households across the state, and the  
2.6 organizations' capacity to manage the programming and outreach.

2.7 Subd. 4. **Household eligibility; participation.** To be eligible for a healthy eating,  
2.8 here at home voucher, an eligible household must meet the Minnesota SNAP eligibility  
2.9 requirements under section 256D.051.

2.10 Subd. 5. **Permissible uses; information provided.** An eligible household may use  
2.11 the voucher toward healthy purchases at Minnesota-based farmers' markets. Every eligible  
2.12 household that receives a voucher must be informed of the allowable uses of the voucher.

2.13 Subd. 6. **Program reporting.** The nonprofit organizations that receive grant funds  
2.14 must report annually to the commissioner with information regarding the operation of the  
2.15 program, including the number of vouchers issued and the number of people served. To  
2.16 the extent practicable, the nonprofit organizations must report on the usage of the vouchers  
2.17 and evaluate the program's effectiveness.

2.18 Subd. 7. **Grocery inclusion.** The commissioner must submit a waiver request to  
2.19 the federal United States Department of Agriculture seeking approval for the inclusion of  
2.20 Minnesota grocery stores in this program so that SNAP participants may use the vouchers  
2.21 for healthy produce at grocery stores. Grocery store participation is voluntary and a  
2.22 grocery store's associated administrative costs will not be reimbursed.

2.23 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.24 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 are appropriated  
2.25 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the healthy eating, here  
2.26 at home program under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.345. No more than three percent  
2.27 of the appropriation may be used for the nonprofit administration of the grant program  
2.28 under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.345.