



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 795

SENATE BILL NO. 2634

By Norris, Gardenhire, Harper, Yarbrow

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2120

By Love, Staples, Gilmore, Cooper, Favors, Camper, Powell, Clemmons

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3; Title 67, Chapter 4 and Title 67, Chapter 6, relative to creating the "Fresh Food Financing Fund".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) As used in this section, "food desert relief enterprise" means a supermarket or grocery retailer that operates on a self-service basis, having at least fifty percent (50%) of revenue derived from the sale of groceries, produce, meat, baked goods, or dairy products, or a farmers market, in low-income, underserved areas of this state.

(b) The Tennessee Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) is directed to perform a study of the potential, overall effects of creating a grant and loan program administered by the department of economic and community development to encourage the financing and development of food desert relief enterprises that sell fresh food in low-income, underserved areas of this state. It is the legislative intent that this study be conducted from TACIR's existing resources.

(c) The study shall include the benefits and costs of creating a special reserve fund in the state treasury to be known as the "Fresh Food Financing Fund" into which the revenue generated from six-hundred twenty-five ten thousandths percent (.0625%) of the rate of tax imposed by § 67-6-228(a) on retail sales of sugar-sweetened beverages is deposited for the sole use by the department to fund grants and loans awarded under the program.

(d) All appropriate state agencies and departments shall provide assistance to TACIR upon the request of its executive director. TACIR shall seek input from representatives of the supermarket and grocery retailer industry and the department.

(e) TACIR shall submit a report disclosing the findings of the study and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the state and local government committee of the senate, the state government committee of the house of representatives, and the local government committee of the house of representatives no later than February 1, 2019.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 5, 2018


RANDY McNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 20th day of April 2018


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR