

HB 1520 -- MISSOURI SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Gardner

This bill creates the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The Department of Social Services must apply for a grant under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to provide low-income seniors with vouchers that may be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs.

The program supplies Missouri-grown fresh produce to senior participants through the distribution of vouchers that are redeemable only at designated Missouri farmers' markets and roadside stands. The program is designed to provide both a supplemental source of fresh produce for the dietary needs of low-income seniors, to stimulate an increased demand for Missouri-grown produce at farmers' markets and roadside stands, and to develop new and additional farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs.

Eligible seniors receive senior farmers' market nutritional program vouchers from designated distribution sites in the county in which they live. With the vouchers, participants receive a list of participating farmers, farmers' markets, and roadside stands. The department, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, must distribute the information at all county area agencies on aging.