

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 173

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SEITZ.

0858H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 262.960, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to donations of unused food.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 262.960, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 262.960, to read as follows:

262.960. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Farm-to-Table Act".

2. There is hereby created within the department of agriculture the "Farm-to-Table Program" to connect Missouri farmers and institutions in order to provide institutions with locally grown agricultural products for inclusion in meals and snacks and to strengthen local farming economies. The department shall establish guidelines for voluntary participation and parameters for program goals, which shall include, but not be limited to, participating institutions purchasing at least ten percent of their food products locally by December 31, 2019. The department shall designate an employee to administer and monitor the farm-to-table program and to serve as liaison between Missouri farmers and institutions. Nothing in this section, nor the guidelines developed by the department, shall require an institution to participate in the farm-to-table program.

3. The following agencies shall make staff available to the Missouri farm-to-table program for the purpose of providing professional consultation and staff support to assist the implementation of this section:

- (1) The department of health and senior services;
- (2) The department of elementary and secondary education;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (3) The office of administration; and

19 (4) The department of corrections.

20 4. The duties of the department employee coordinating the farm-to-table program
21 shall include, but not be limited to:

22 (1) Establishing and maintaining a website database to allow farmers and institutions
23 to connect whereby farmers can enter the locally grown agricultural products they produce
24 along with pricing information, the times such products are available, and where they are
25 willing to distribute such products;

26 (2) Providing leadership at the state level to encourage institutions to procure and use
27 locally grown agricultural products;

28 (3) Conducting workshops and training sessions and providing technical assistance to
29 institution food service directors, personnel, farmers, and produce distributors and processors
30 regarding the farm-to-table program; and

31 (4) Seeking grants, private donations, or other funding sources to support the farm-to-
32 table program.

33 **5. As a cost-savings measure for schools, the department of agriculture shall**
34 **actively seek to connect Missouri farmers and ranchers and school districts and**
35 **establish oral partnerships with Missouri farmers and ranchers encouraging the**
36 **donation of excess produce, processed livestock, and locally grown agricultural food**
37 **products to school districts. The department may coordinate activities under this**
38 **subsection with the department of elementary and secondary education to maximize**
39 **such cost savings.**

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