

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1097H.01I
Bill No.: HB 892
Subject: Public Assistance; Food
Type: Original
Date: March 30, 2025

Bill Summary: This proposal adds honey to the list of approved foods for purchase in the WIC farmer's market nutrition program.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Federal*	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)	\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)

*Oversight assumes the potential loss of federal funds could be \$0 or a range of “Up to” the total amount of federal funds allocated to the FMNP program.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

☒ Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

☐ Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§ 208.285 - Adds honey to the list of approved foods in the WIC farmer's market nutrition program

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA)** state the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition (SFMNP) and Farmers Market Nutrition (FMNP) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Programs are federal programs housed within Food Nutrition Services (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Each year, the Missouri Department of Agriculture is required to submit a state plan to USDA, which must be approved by USDA before federal funding for the programs is administered. Funding and participation is not guaranteed each year.

Additionally, as these are programs of the USDA, they are required to follow the Code of Federal Regulations when implementing and coordinating the program here in Missouri.

The [Code of Federal Regulations](#) is the authority for SFMNP and FMNP eligible and ineligible foods, and thus, lists honey, among other food items, ineligible for purchase for the FMNP.

If this state legislation is amended, as proposed, the MDA, and the State of Missouri, would be in direct violation of the Code of Federal Regulations pertaining to the FMNP. Furthermore, violation of the Code of Federal Regulations could jeopardize the State of Missouri's participation in the SFMNP and FMNP, which would negatively impact the 15,348 low-income seniors and WIC participants who participated in these programs in 2024 and could potentially qualify to participate again in 2025. Additionally, in 2024, 285 Missouri farmers were authorized to accept benefits at farmers markets and road stands. These programs provide additional income for these farmers, which subsequently has a positive impact on local economies.

Oversight notes CFR § 248.8(a) states as follows:

General.** State agencies shall identify in the State Plan the fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs which are eligible for purchase under the FMNP. **Ineligible foods for the purpose of the FMNP include, but are not limited to: honey, maple syrup, cider, nuts and seeds, eggs, cheese, meat and seafood.

Oversight also notes the [Department](#) successfully connected 168 Missouri farmers to 3,735 food insecure individuals through the Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs in FY 24-25.

MDA provided the following:

The tables are outlining funding over the past several program years. Note, program year 2025 is just starting and MDA is still waiting for allocations. Senior funding is tied up in the Farm Bill, but MDA has received their first allocation for FMNP (WIC).

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)		
Year	Federal Admin Dollars	Federal Food Dollars
2022	\$22,901	\$206,111
2023	\$21,573	\$194,160
2024	\$20,012	\$180,108
2025		

WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)		
Year	Federal Admin Dollars	Federal Food Dollars
2022	\$50,784	\$247,946
2023	\$63,534	\$310,196
2024	\$47,732	\$233,043
2025	\$3,260	\$15,914

USDA does require a state match for FMNP (WIC) funding. Each state agency must meet a minimum of 30 percent matching funds for FMNP administrative costs.

Oversight notes the following regarding the [Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program \(SFMNP\)](#):

§ 249.2 Definitions.

Eligible foods means fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, **honey**, and herbs for human consumption. Eligible foods may not be processed or prepared beyond their natural state except for usual harvesting and cleaning processes.

Oversight will reflect the estimates as provided by the MDA as a potential loss of federal funds to the FMNP program. Oversight will present the potential losses as “\$0 or Up to \$317,745”, the average of the full annual allocation for the program:

FMNP: \$317,745 (\$54,016.67 average administrative funds + \$263,728.33 average food funds)

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services** and the **Department of Social Services** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
FEDERAL FUNDS			
<u>Losses – MDA, FMNP (§ 208.285)</u>	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>	<u>\$0 or Up to (\$317,745)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small business farmers' markets could be negatively impacted as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the Department of Agriculture oversees the "Missouri Farmers' Market Nutrition Program", which provides Missouri-grown fresh produce to participants. This bill permits honey to be provided to participants under the program. (§ 208.285)

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Health and Senior Services

Department of Social Services

Missouri Department of Agriculture



Julie Morff

Director

March 30, 2025



Jessica Harris

Assistant Director

March 30, 2025