



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 1194** HLS 26RS 2611  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 18, 2026	3:57 PM	<b>Author:</b> LANDRY, TERRY JR
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> LSU AG Center		
<b>Subject:</b> Healthy Food Retail Act		<b>Analyst:</b> Richie Anderson

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides with respect to the Healthy Food Retail Act

Proposed law provides for the expansion and enhancement of Louisiana’s healthy food financing program to improve access to affordable fresh food in underserved communities and food deserts. Current law provides that the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) shall administer a financing program that provides grants and loans to healthy food retailers to increase access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and other affordable healthy food in underserved communities. Proposed law provides that LDAF shall prioritize projects that are located in verified food deserts. To identify these verified food deserts, the LSU AgCenter shall conduct a statewide study to identify and map food deserts, implement and maintain a public database, establish a ten-year food desert elimination plan, and submit an annual report to the legislature that includes a summary of progress, barriers, and outcomes.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

**LSU AgCenter**

Proposed law will increase SGF expenditures for the LSU AgCenter. Proposed law provides that the LSU AgCenter shall conduct a statewide study to identify and map food deserts, implement and maintain a public database, establish a ten-year food desert elimination plan, and submit an annual report to the legislature that includes a summary of progress, barriers, and outcomes. To implement the proposed law, the LSU AgCenter reports that the proposed law exceeds existing staff capacity, and will require six (6) additional T.O. positions: an Economist, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Technician, a Nutrition Agent, and three graduate assistants. These salaries will increase annually by 3% in the out years for market rate adjustments. Additionally, the LSU AgCenter will require annual operating expenses of \$30,000 for travel and supplies to accommodate these positions. See a table below for a breakdown of expenditures.

Salary and Related Benefits	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	FY 31
Economist	\$119,700	\$123,291	\$126,990	\$130,799	\$134,723
GIS Tech	\$106,400	\$109,592	\$112,880	\$116,266	\$119,754
Nutrition Agent	\$86,500	\$89,095	\$91,768	\$94,521	\$97,357
Graduate Assistant	\$30,667	\$31,587	\$32,535	\$33,511	\$34,516
Graduate Assistant	\$30,667	\$31,587	\$32,535	\$33,511	\$34,516
Graduate Assistant	\$30,667	\$31,587	\$32,535	\$33,511	\$34,516
<b>Total Salary and RB</b>	<b>\$404,601</b>	<b>\$416,739</b>	<b>\$429,243</b>	<b>\$442,119</b>	<b>\$455,382</b>
Operating Expenses	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Total SGF Expenditures</b>	<b>\$434,601</b>	<b>\$446,739</b>	<b>\$459,243</b>	<b>\$472,119</b>	<b>\$485,382</b>

***The LFO acknowledges that implementation of the proposed law will result in additional workload. However, it cannot be confirmed whether existing positions within the LSU AgCenter can, in whole or in part, absorb this increase. To the extent that the increase in workload differs from what is anticipated by the LSU AgCenter, and existing staff are able to manage the increase, estimated expenditures may be lower than those provided in this fiscal note.***

**LDAF**

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) shall prioritize its Healthy Food Retail financing program on projects located in verified food deserts. LDAF reports to prioritize these locations it will not require any additional expenditures.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

**Patrice Thomas**  
**Deputy Fiscal Officer**