HLS 24RS-2205 ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

FEDERAL PROGRAMS: Urges and requests the Legislature of Louisiana to support the "Greaux the Good" farmers market match program

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

| 2 | To urge and request the Legislature of Louisiana to support the "Greaux the Good" farmers |
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| 3 | market match programs. |
| 4 | WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana State University AgCenter, agriculture |
| 5 | creates an annual economic impact to Louisiana of nearly eleven billion dollars, making it |
| 6 | one of the top economic industries in the state; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, in 2017, Louisiana produce which includes fruit and vegetable crops |
| 8 | accounted for approximately five hundred ninety-seven million dollars in total value to the |
| 9 | state; and |
| 10 | WHEREAS, according to the 2022 census by the United States Department of |
| 11 | Agriculture (USDA), there are approximately twenty-five thousand farm operations in this |
| 12 | state, one thousand four hundred of which are for small scale producers of fruits and |
| 13 | vegetables with farms not exceeding forty-nine acres in size; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, farmers typically make approximately seventeen cents of every food |
| 15 | dollar spent through traditional food marketing systems, but can make up to one hundred |
| 16 | percent of every food dollar spent in direct-to-consumer operations, thus increasing the |
| 17 | amount of money farmers make off of the commodities they produce; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) is |
| 19 | authorized under 7 U.S.C. 7517 to allow the USDA to provide funding opportunities to |
| 20 | conduct and evaluate projects providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and |
| 21 | vegetables by low-income consumers; and |
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| 1 | WHEREAS, the GusNIP has aided in the creation of market match programs |
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| 2 | throughout the country, including Louisiana, whereby recipients of the Supplemental |
| 3 | Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as SNAP, can receive a dollar for dollar |
| 4 | match up to a particular amount to use for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at |
| 5 | participating farmers markets and from local producers; and |
| 6 | WHEREAS, according to recent USDA data, there are nine hundred seven thousand |
| 7 | Louisiana residents, nearly one quarter of the state's population, enrolled in SNAP; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, the "Greaux the Good" program provides technical assistance and other |
| 9 | support to Louisiana farmers markets and direct marketing farmers to further increase the |
| 10 | number of local agricultural direct-to-consumer SNAP-authorized business; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was established by |
| 12 | Congress in 1992, to provide fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to |
| 13 | participants of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) federal assistance program and the |
| 14 | Seniors FMNP, and to expand awareness, use of, and sales at farmers markets; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, according to the USDA, fifteen percent of all Louisiana homes in 2020 |
| 16 | suffered from food insecurity, which is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food |
| 17 | for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, Louisiana suffers from |
| 19 | some of the poorest health outcomes in the country, in large part due to forty-seven and a |
| 20 | half percent of adults reporting they consumed fruit less than one time daily and nearly |
| 21 | thirty-three percent reporting they consumed vegetables less than one time daily; and |
| 22 | WHEREAS, SNAP aids in reducing hunger and food insecurity, and matching |
| 23 | programs are known to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables in low-income |
| 24 | households; and |
| 25 | WHEREAS, fifty-two out of sixty-four parishes have been impacted by the "Greaux |
| 26 | the Good" program with over four thousand five hundred shoppers, eighty produce farmers, |
| 27 | and two hundred thirty vendors with approximately eighty-four percent redemption rate |
| 28 | since receiving its first appropriation in 2022; and |
| 29 | WHEREAS, the "Greaux the Good" program has provided Louisiana farmers |
| 30 | markets and operations with funding to create or expand a market match SNAP program |

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- whereby increasing the number of shoppers at farmers markets and the amount of fresh produce consumed in Louisiana, will create a mutual benefit of positively impacting the
- state's agricultural economy and farmers while helping to decrease the food insecurity of
 some of the most vulnerable populations.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate to recognize and continue to support the farmers market match programs for SNAP and FMNP recipients in the state as the "Greaux the Good" program.
 - BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana Senate to appropriate funds for the "Greaux the Good" program in order to increase the size and scope of the program which will support local farmers and decrease food insecurity in the state.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 61 Original 2024 Regular Session McFarland

Urges and requests the Legislature of La. to support the "Greaux the Good" farmers market match program.