
DIGEST

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HB 1222 Re-Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Lyons

Abstract: Provides relative to grocery initiative grants and financial support.

Proposed law defines "department", "food desert", "grocery store", "local government unit", "not-for-profit corporation", "rural tract", and "urban tract".

Proposed law allows Louisiana Economic Development (LED) to establish the Grocery Initiative in order to expand access to healthy foods in food deserts and areas at risk of becoming food deserts by providing grants or other financial assistance to grocery stores specified in proposed law.

Proposed law allows LED to enter into contracts, grants, or other agreements to administer any grants or other forms of financial assistance and to place any necessary limitation on the monetary amount of the grants and financial assistance.

Proposed law allows LED to prioritize grant awards and loan funding to applicants based on certain factors listed in proposed law. Proposed law also allows LED to award grants or provide loans for any of the following:

- (1) Market and site feasibility studies, promotional materials, and marketing.
- (2) Salaries and benefits for workers.
- (3) Rent or a down payment to acquire a facility.
- (4) Purchase of ownership of a grocery store as part of establishing a new grocery store.
- (5) Capital improvements, planning, renovations, land acquisition, demolition, and durable and non-durable equipment purchases.
- (6) Other costs as determined eligible by LED.

Proposed law allows LED to provide grants for equipment upgrades for grocery stores specified in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law prevents a grocery store from receiving funds, grants, or other financial support from entities other than LED for reasons outlined in proposed law, equipment upgrades, or technical assistance to help expand access to health food options in food

deserts.

Proposed law allows LED to provide technical assistance to grantees and other small, independently owned grocery stores to ensure their long-term viability and business success.

Proposed law provides that technical assistance, online resources, and materials provided may include but is not limited to business planning, marketing, financing, supply chain management, and workforce development assistance.

Proposed law allows LED to study food insecurities in urban and rural food deserts. Requires submission of a report of the department's findings if the department undertakes the study.

Effective upon appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Adds R.S. 51:3301-3304)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Change all requirements in proposed law to permissive.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Change effectiveness of proposed law from Aug. 1 to subject to appropriation of monies by the legislature for the implementation of proposed law.
2. Change authorization for the dept. to submit a report on food insecurity to a requirement that it submit a report if the dept. undertakes such study.
3. Make conforming changes.