



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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RECEIVED
JUN 24 2026

House of Representatives
Clerk's Office
JULY 11 3 08 am

June 12, 2026

The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
900 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill Number 1194 of the 2026 Regular Session by Representative Terry Landry, Jr.

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

I am notifying you that I have vetoed House Bill 1194 from the 2026 Regular Session by Representative Terry Landry, Jr.

House Bill 1194 purports to expand a program that has no funding. The bill expands the Healthy Food Retail Act by directing the Louisiana Department of Agriculture ("LDAF") to administer a financing program, yet it makes this mandate contingent on funding being available. No appropriation is made to cover either the originally created program, the expanded program, or the newly contemplated revolving loan fund. When the legislature expands an existing program in law, the public should be able to assume that the resources to fully implement the new program exist. Here, they do not.

Beyond the funding problem, most of the bill is unnecessary. Should the legislature appropriate funds for grocery stores in food deserts, or should other funding later become available, nearly all of the bill's provisions can be implemented without this legislation. LDAF is already granted specific authority to implement the Healthy Food Retail Act, including the authority to adopt rules to implement the Act; to define what projects meet the intent of the of the Healthy Food Retail Act (LDAF has already defined eligible projects to include supermarkets and grocery stores in LAC 7:III.903), to create measurable standards that an applicant needs to meet to be considered for funding, and to establish the criteria for which applicants should be evaluated. *See* R.S. 3:296 (D) and LAC 7:III.901-915. The Louisiana State University Agricultural Center likewise already has authority to conduct the research this bill describes under its general authority. R.S. 17: 3215 and R.S. 3:1061.

June 12, 2026

House Bill 1194 Veto Message

Expanding a program through legislation without providing the funding for the expansion is poor public policy. Similar to HB 950, which I vetoed for similar reasons, the bill's use of mandatory language such as "shall administer" while also limiting implementation "to the extent funds are available," creates an unreasonable disconnect between what the law appears to promise and what the agency is actually expected to deliver.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1194 of the 2026 Regular Session.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 1194