### Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

# **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 24-1073.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 24-1416

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP** 

Sirota and Taggart, Bird

#### **SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

Bridges and Zenzinger, Kirkmeyer

House Committees Appropriations **Senate Committees** 

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

101	CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES
102	PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN

103 APPROPRIATION.

#### **Bill Summary**

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <u>http://leg.colorado.gov/</u>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill creates the healthy food incentives program (program) in the department of public health and environment to be administered by the prevention services division (division).

The division shall partner with a statewide nonprofit organization

that has experience in supporting healthy food incentives programs to provide healthy food incentives that benefit Colorado's low-income populations. The healthy food incentives must attempt to improve access to fresh Colorado-grown fruits and vegetables within Colorado's low-income communities.

The bill limits the division's and the nonprofit organization's administrative expenses.

For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, the bill appropriates \$500,000 to the department of public health and environment for use by the division to implement the program.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:* 2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 22 to article 3 20.5 of title 25 as follows: 4 **PART 22** 5 HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES PROGRAM 6 25-20.5-2201. Legislative declaration. (1) THE GENERAL 7 ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT: 8 (a) A RECENT SURVEY FOUND THAT ONE IN THREE COLORADANS 9 ARE "FOOD INSECURE", THAT IS, LACKING RELIABLE ACCESS TO 10 NUTRITIOUS FOOD: 11 (b) IN ADDITION, MORE THAN ONE IN THREE ADULTS LIVING WITH 12 CHILDREN HAVE REPORTED REGULARLY CUTTING BACK OR SKIPPING 13 MEALS TO ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT; 14 (c) CHILDHOOD HUNGER CAN HAVE LIFELONG IMPACTS, SUCH AS 15 INTERFERING WITH DEVELOPMENTAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS: 16 (d) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, 17 SENIORS, AND LOWER-INCOME COLORADANS, ARE PRONE TO 18 HIGHER-THAN-AVERAGE RATES OF FOOD INSECURITY; 19 (e) FOOD SECURITY AND HOUSING SECURITY ARE CLOSELY 20 RELATED ISSUES: BOTH ARE BASIC NEEDS THAT A FAMILY MUST ACCOUNT

FOR, AND THE TWO CAN BECOME COMPETING PRIORITIES ON A LIMITED
 BUDGET. A FAMILY'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR FOOD IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO
 THE FAMILY'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR HOUSING, AND IMPROVING ONE WILL
 NECESSARILY IMPROVE THE OTHER.

(f) IMPROVING THE CAPACITY OF EXISTING SMALL, LOCAL
RETAILERS TO STORE AND SELL NUTRITIOUS FOOD CAN IMPROVE ACCESS,
LOWER PRICES, AND REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY, PARTICULARLY FOR
COLORADO FAMILIES MOST AT RISK OF FOOD INSECURITY, WHILE KEEPING
MORE OF THE PROCEEDS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY; AND

11 (g) EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF RETAILERS SELLING FRESH
12 PRODUCE MAY ALSO CREATE NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES FOR
13 COLORADO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS.

14 (2) THEREFORE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINES THAT
15 ENACTING LEGISLATION TO FURTHER SUPPORT EXISTING NUTRITION
16 ACCESS EFFORTS WILL IMPROVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR
17 COLORADANS, ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES, AND FOSTER COLORADO'S
18 AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

19 25-20.5-2202. Healthy food incentives program - creation 20 nonprofit organization. (1) THERE IS CREATED THE HEALTHY FOOD
21 INCENTIVES PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE
22 DIVISION.

(2) THE DIVISION SHALL PARTNER WITH A STATEWIDE NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES THAT BENEFIT
COLORADO'S LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS. THE INCENTIVES PROVIDED
PURSUANT TO THE HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES PROGRAM MUST ATTEMPT
TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO FRESH COLORADO-GROWN FRUITS AND

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1 VEGETABLES WITHIN COLORADO'S LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.

(3) THE STATEWIDE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SELECTED BY THE
DIVISION FOR THE PARTNERSHIP DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS
SECTION MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE SUPPORTING PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE
HEALTHY FOOD INCENTIVES, SUCH AS PROGRAMS AT LOCAL FARMERS'
MARKETS, AND EXPERIENCE WITH COORDINATING HEALTHY FOOD
PROGRAMS AND COORDINATING FUNDING BETWEEN LOCAL, STATE, AND
FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

9 (4) IN PROVIDING THE PROGRAM INCENTIVES, BOTH THE DIVISION 10 AND THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SHALL MINIMIZE ADMINISTRATIVE 11 EXPENSES. THE DIVISION SHALL NOT USE MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND 12 DOLLARS OF, AND THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SHALL NOT USE MORE 13 THAN FIVE PERCENT OF, THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM 14 TO PAY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

15 SECTION 2. Appropriation. For the 2024-25 state fiscal year, 16 \$500,000 is appropriated to the department of public health and 17 environment for use by the prevention services division. This 18 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the division 19 may use this appropriation for the healthy food incentives program related 20 to chronic disease prevention programs.

SECTION 3. Safety clause. The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state institutions.

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