

HB 1833 -- Farm to Institution Initiative

Sponsor: Munzlinger

This bill establishes the Farm to Institution Initiative in the Agriculture Business Development Division within the Department of Agriculture to improve public awareness of and access to agricultural products produced or processed by small farmers and small agribusinesses, promote a sustainable Missouri food system, and strengthen the state's economy. The division may coordinate with the departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Senior Services, Corrections, Mental Health, and Economic Development to promote the economic and health benefits of the initiative. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the division to provide small farmers and small agribusinesses with financial and technical assistance in the branding, marketing, and distribution of locally grown agricultural products;
- (2) Establishes the Farm to Institution Program to reduce obesity, improve nutrition and public health, and strengthen local agricultural economies by increasing access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown foods;
- (3) Establishes the Farm Fresh Schools Program to link schools with locally grown food; develop nutritional awareness, healthy eating habits, and physical activity for the overall wellness of students; provide hands-on learning activities in basic life skills; emphasize the purchase of locally grown foods by schools; establish specified goals regarding these purchases; identify existing resources for processing foods locally and funding sources for the expansion of local processing facilities; and allow for a percentage price preference for locally produced or processed food;
- (4) Establishes the Farm to Cafeteria Program to build partnerships to reform state institution food procurement policies to facilitate the purchase of locally grown foods by linking local food producers and processors with institutions; emphasize the purchase of locally grown foods by institutions; establish specified goals regarding these purchases; identify existing resources for processing foods locally and funding sources for the expansion of local processing facilities; and allow for a percentage price preference for locally produced or processed food;
- (5) Creates the Farm to Institution Initiative Fund consisting of moneys appropriated for the program, gifts, bequests, or donations to be used solely for the administration of the

programs; and

(6) Requires grants to be awarded from the fund to eligible participants on a competitive bid process to implement the Farm to Institution Program with the first six grants awarded based on need in counties with a significant agricultural economy.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.