

HB 1080 -- Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods Initiative

Sponsor: Munzlinger

This bill establishes the Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods Initiative to increase access to locally grown agricultural food products. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Establishes the Office of Sustainable Agriculture and Local Foods within the Department of Agriculture to improve the climate for agricultural products that are processed or produced by small farmers and businesses and to promote a sustainable Missouri food system;

(2) Requires the office to provide technical and financial assistance to small farmers and businesses for the branding, marketing, and distribution of sustainable, natural, and organic Missouri agricultural products;

(3) Establishes the Missouri Farm-to-Cafeteria Program, the Beginning Farmer Program, the Missouri-Branded Program, and the New Markets Program to be administered by the office;

(4) Specifies that the office will administer up to \$2 million in tax credits for the acquisition of best management practice technology by small farmers and businesses;

(5) Requires the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Health and Senior Services, to establish the Farm Fresh Schools Program to reduce obesity, improve nutrition and public health, strengthen local agricultural economies by increasing access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables in schools, and increase physical activities and programs that promote pupil wellness;

(6) Specifies the activities, promotions, and educational training agendas to be administered by the office;

(7) Creates the Farm Fresh Schools Fund consisting of moneys appropriated for the program and all other moneys donated to the fund;

(8) Specifies that the Beginning Farmer Program will connect aging farmers and ranchers with young people interested in agriculture and requires the program to utilize at least \$500,000 authorized for agriculture linked deposits to fund micro agricultural enterprises;

(9) Specifies that the Missouri-Branded Program will assist

small farmers and businesses in marketing, production, and distribution of locally grown and processed agricultural products; and

(10) Specifies that the New Markets Program will establish 10 new farmer's markets each year for 10 years in which small farmers and businesses will compose the majority of the vendors.

The provisions regarding the Farm Fresh Schools Program, the Beginning Farmer Program, the Missouri-Branded Program, and the New Markets Program will expire six years from the effective date.