

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 287

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

AGRICULTURE/FOREST DEPT. Provides relative to the Healthy Food Retail Act. (8/1/24)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact 3:296(D)(1),(2), and (3), relative to the Healthy Food Retail Act; to
3 provide relative to a financing program; to provide relative to contracts with
4 qualified nonprofit organizations or community development financial institutions;
5 to provide relative to funding for eligible projects; to provide for funding on a
6 competitive basis; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 3:296(D)(1), (2), and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
9 as follows:

10 §296. Healthy Food Retail Act; definitions; purpose

11 * * *

12 D. (1) ~~To the extent funds are available, the~~ **The** Louisiana Department of
13 Agriculture and Forestry, in cooperation with public and private sector partners, shall
14 establish a financing program that provides grants and loans to healthy food retailers
15 that increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other affordable healthy food
16 in underserved communities.

17 (2) The department ~~may~~ **shall** contract with one or more qualified nonprofit

1 organizations or community development financial institutions to administer the
 2 program described in this Section through a public-private partnership, to raise
 3 matching funds, market the program statewide, evaluate applicants, make award
 4 decisions, underwrite loans, and monitor compliance and impact. The department
 5 and its partners shall coordinate with complementary nutrition assistance and
 6 education programs.

7 (3) The program shall provide funding on a competitive, ~~one-time~~ basis as
 8 appropriate for the eligible project.

9 * * *

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

DIGEST

SB 287 Engrossed

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Duplessis

Present law requires that to the extent funds are available, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, in cooperation with public and private sector partners, establish a financing program that provides grants and loans to healthy food retailers that increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other affordable healthy food in underserved communities.

Proposed law retains present law but deletes the language "to the extent funds are available".

Present law allows the department to contract with one or more qualified nonprofit organizations or community development financial institutions to administer the program through a public-private partnership, to raise matching funds, market the program statewide, evaluate applicants, make award decisions, underwrite loans, and monitor compliance and impact.

Proposed law provides that the department must contract with qualified nonprofit organizations or community development financial institutions.

Present law provides that the program must provide funding on a competitive, one-time basis for eligible projects.

Proposed law deletes the language "one-time basis", and requires the program to provide funding on a competitive basis.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 3:296(D)(1),(2), and (3))