

SHB 1587 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/15/2019

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that nearly
4 eleven percent of Washington households, including more than two
5 hundred eighty thousand children, are food insecure with limited or
6 uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods. The
7 legislature further finds that food insecurity contributes to poor
8 quality diets; chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart
9 disease, and hypertension; and negative outcomes for children and
10 families, including harmful effects on behavioral health. Further,
11 food insecurity disproportionately affects people with low incomes,
12 people of color, and rural residents.

13 (2) The legislature finds that food assistance programs such as
14 the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and
15 children and the supplemental nutrition assistance program are
16 effective in significantly reducing food insecurity; that
17 participants report difficulty affording and accessing healthy foods;
18 and that fruit and vegetable consumption among such food assistance
19 program participants is far below national dietary guidelines.

20 (3) The legislature finds that the state department of health has
21 successfully managed a food insecurity nutrition incentives grant
22 from the United States department of agriculture that provides a
23 framework for providing fruit and vegetable incentives for low-income
24 shoppers and that those federal funds are set to expire in March
25 2020. Further, the legislature finds that more than two million
26 dollars in fruit and vegetable incentives have been redeemed by food
27 insecure Washingtonians through this grant, helping to alleviate food
28 insecurity and increase fruit and vegetable consumption.

29 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to create a state fruit
30 and vegetable incentives program to benefit people who are food
31 insecure, our agricultural industry, and retailers across the state.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The fruit and vegetable incentives program is established to
4 increase fruit and vegetable consumption among food insecure
5 individuals with limited incomes. The fruit and vegetable incentives
6 program includes:

7 (a) Farmers market basic food incentives to provide eligible
8 participants with extra benefits to purchase fruits and vegetables at
9 authorized farmers markets when the participant uses basic food
10 benefits;

11 (b) Grocery store basic food incentives to provide eligible
12 participants with extra benefits to purchase fruits and vegetables at
13 authorized grocery stores when the participant uses basic food
14 benefits; and

15 (c) Fruit and vegetable vouchers provided by a health care
16 provider, health educator, community health worker, or other health
17 professional to an eligible participant for use at an authorized
18 farmers market or grocery store.

19 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
20 specific purpose, the department shall administer the fruit and
21 vegetable incentives program. As part of its duties, the department
22 shall:

23 (a) Collaborate with other state agencies whose missions and
24 programs closely align with the fruit and vegetable incentives
25 program, including the department of social and health services and
26 the department of agriculture, in the development and implementation
27 of the program;

28 (b) Provide resources, coordination, and technical assistance to
29 program partners for targeted outreach to food insecure populations
30 and for administration of the program. Program partners may include
31 farmers markets, grocery stores, government agencies, health care
32 systems, and nonprofit organizations; and

33 (c) Adopt rules to implement this section.

34 (3) Farmers market basic food incentives may be provided to
35 eligible participants for use at farmers markets authorized by the
36 department. The incentives are additional funds that may be used to
37 purchase eligible fruits and vegetables as defined by the department.
38 When authorizing a participating farmers market, the department may
39 give preference to a farmers market that accepts or has previously
40 accepted supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, has the

1 capacity to accept supplemental nutrition assistance program
2 benefits, or is located in a county with a high level of food
3 insecurity, as defined by the department.

4 (4) Grocery store basic food incentives may be provided to
5 eligible participants for use at a grocery store that is an
6 authorized supplemental nutrition assistance program retailer and
7 approved by the department. The incentives are additional funds that
8 may be used to purchase eligible fruits and vegetables as defined by
9 the department. When approving a participating grocery store, the
10 department may give preference to a store that is located in a county
11 with a high level of food insecurity.

12 (5) Fruit and vegetable vouchers are cash-value vouchers that may
13 be distributed by a participating health care provider, health
14 educator, community health worker, or other health professional to a
15 patient who is eligible for basic food and has a qualifying health
16 condition, as defined by the department, or is food insecure. The
17 voucher may be redeemed at a participating retailer, including an
18 authorized farmers market or grocery store. The department shall
19 approve participating health care systems and may give preference to
20 systems that have operated fruit and vegetable prescription programs,
21 routinely screen patients for food insecurity, have a high percentage
22 of patients who are medicaid clients, or are located in a county with
23 a high level of food insecurity.

24 (6) Subject to the availability of funds, the department must
25 evaluate the fruit and vegetable incentives program effectiveness.
26 When conducting the evaluation, the department must collect
27 information related to fruit and vegetable consumption by eligible
28 participants, levels of food security, and likely impacts on public
29 health outcomes as a result of the program. By July 1, 2021, and in
30 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department must submit a progress
31 report to the governor and the legislature describing the results of
32 the program and recommending any legislative or programmatic changes
33 to improve the effectiveness of program delivery. By December 1,
34 2023, the department must submit a complete program evaluation
35 describing the program's effectiveness and including any additional
36 recommendations for program improvements.

37 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
38 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

39 (a) "Eligible participant" means:

1 (i) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this
2 section, a recipient of basic food benefits, including the
3 supplemental nutrition assistance program and the food assistance
4 program, as authorized under Title 74 RCW; or

5 (ii) For the purposes of subsection (1)(c) of this section, a
6 person who is determined to be food insecure by a participating
7 health care provider.

8 (b) "Food insecure" means a state in which consistent access to
9 adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources at
10 times during the year."

SHB 1587 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/15/2019

11 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "incomes;" strike the
12 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
13 43.70 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of
Health is to evaluate the effectiveness of the fruit and vegetable
incentives program.

--- END ---