



96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

HB4756

Introduced 1/11/2010, by Rep. LaShawn K. Ford and Maria Antonia Berrios

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program Act. Provides that out of funds appropriated to the Department of Human Services for the LINK program, the Department, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, shall use whatever monies are necessary to implement the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program to assist nontraditional fresh food markets, such as farmers' markets, Green Carts, market boxes, farm stands and mobile farm stands, produce stands, and other open-air markets, to develop the capability to accept wireless electronic payment cards, including electronic benefits transfer cards or LINK cards, and maintain the equipment usage. Provides that the purpose of the program is to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other LINK eligible food products, including quality meat and dairy, for all Illinois residents by allowing LINK program participants to redeem their SNAP benefits at nontraditional fresh food markets. Requires grant funding to be used for one or more specified purposes including the purchase or rental of wireless point of sale terminals capable of processing SNAP benefits disbursed under the LINK program. Effective July 1, 2010.

LRB096 16292 KTG 31917 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

7 "Farmers' market" means a market open to the public which
8 allows farmers and other vendors to sell fresh produce and
9 other locally produced food products directly to consumers. For
10 purposes of this Act, "locally produced food products" includes
11 food products produced in nearby states.

12 "Green Carts" means licensed mobile food carts that sell
13 fresh produce directly to the public.

14 "Market boxes" means boxes that contain healthy fresh food
15 products and are delivered to homes, community centers,
16 churches, and schools for pick up.

17 "Farm stand" means a location at which a farmer sells
18 produce directly to consumers.

19 "Produce stand" means an approved structure or roadside
20 stand, including any outside display area, which operates as a
21 food establishment at a fixed location and offers for sale only
22 unprocessed fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other agricultural
23 produce in its raw or natural state.

1 "LINK card" means an electronic benefits transfer card
2 issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of
3 enabling a user of the card to obtain SNAP (formerly known as
4 food stamps) benefits or cash.

5 Section 10. Farmers' Market Technology Improvement
6 Program. Out of funds appropriated to the Department of Human
7 Services for the LINK program, the Department, in cooperation
8 with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, shall use whatever
9 monies are necessary to implement the Farmers' Market
10 Technology Improvement Program to assist nontraditional fresh
11 food markets, such as farmers' markets, Green Carts, market
12 boxes, farm stands and mobile farm stands, produce stands, and
13 other open-air markets, to develop the capability to accept
14 wireless electronic payment cards, including electronic
15 benefits transfer cards or LINK cards, and maintain the
16 equipment usage. The purpose of this program is to increase
17 access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other LINK eligible
18 food products, including quality meat and dairy, for all
19 Illinois residents by allowing LINK program participants to
20 redeem their SNAP benefits at nontraditional fresh food
21 markets. Grant funding must be used for one or more of the
22 following purposes:

23 (1) The purchase or rental of wireless point of sale
24 terminals capable of processing SNAP benefits disbursed
25 under the LINK program.

1 (2) Monthly or transaction fees associated with LINK
2 card transactions. No fees related to credit or debit
3 transactions will be reimbursed.

4 (3) Outreach to LINK program participants.

5 (4) Advertising and promotion of farmers' markets
6 specifically targeting LINK program participants.

7 (5) Incentives to encourage LINK program participants
8 to use their benefits at Illinois Farmers' Markets.

9 (6) Additional staffing for the administration and
10 management of LINK transactions on wireless point of sale
11 terminals and the training of such staff.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
13 2010.