



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB1668

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Linda Holmes

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Harvest to Homes Pilot Program Act. Provides that the Department of Agriculture, with meaningful input from stakeholders, shall develop an Illinois Harvest to Homes Pilot Program for a period of 5 years under which eligible entities may receive funding to provide agricultural surplus to communities of need. Creates an advisory council to support the Program. Provides that the Department shall adopt rules to implement the program no later than 90 days after the effective date of the Act. Provides that aspects of the program that are eligible for funding may include: (1) reimbursement to growers for picking, packing, and processing agricultural surplus; (2) transportation to the food banks; (3) reimbursement to food banks for storage and distribution costs; (4) capacity building grants for food banks to invest in facility upgrades for processing agricultural surplus; (5) marketing and promotional activities related to the pilot program; and (6) program administration. Provides for reporting requirements. Effective immediately.

LRB102 11593 KMF 16927 b

1 AN ACT concerning agriculture.

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 Illinois Harvest to Homes Pilot Program Act.

6 Section 3. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
7 finds that:

8 (1) In this State, nearly 1,500,000 people are struggling
9 with hunger and of them 450,000 are children.

10 (2) This State has a potential agricultural surplus of
11 2,600 acres.

12 (3) Reporting shows that 50% of food grown is lost before
13 consumption, including product that is not suitable for sale,
14 but still edible.

15 (4) Providing funding to connect agricultural surplus with
16 food banks can reduce food insecurity within vulnerable
17 populations.

18 Section 5. Pilot program. The Department of Agriculture,
19 with meaningful input from stakeholders, shall develop an
20 Illinois Harvest to Homes Pilot Program for a period of 5 years
21 under which eligible entities may receive funding to provide
22 agricultural surplus to communities of need.

1 Section 10. Advisory Council. The program shall be
2 administered by an organization selected by the Department and
3 approved by the advisory council. The organization chosen must
4 be a statewide organization whose membership is food banks.
5 The advisory council shall be comprised of:

6 (1) one representative from a statewide environmental
7 nonprofit organization;

8 (2) one representative from a statewide organization
9 advocating on behalf of farmers;

10 (3) one representative from a statewide organization whose
11 members support specialty crops and sustainable agriculture;

12 (4) one representative from a food bank from a county with
13 a population over 3,000,000;

14 (5) one representative from a food bank encompassing
15 northern Illinois;

16 (6) one representative from a food bank serving central or
17 southern Illinois communities; and

18 (7) one representative from the Department of Agriculture.

19 Section 15. Rulemaking. The Department of Agriculture
20 shall adopt rules to implement the program no later than 90
21 days after the effective date of this Act. These rules shall
22 include, but are not limited to, entities and action eligible
23 for funding, methods to connect growers and food banks, and
24 methods to identify sources of surpluses. Aspects of the

1 program that are eligible for funding may include:

2 (1) reimbursement to growers for picking, packing, and
3 processing agricultural surplus;

4 (2) transportation to the food banks;

5 (3) reimbursement to food banks for storage and
6 distribution costs;

7 (4) capacity building grants for food banks to invest in
8 facility upgrades for processing agricultural surplus;

9 (5) marketing and promotional activities related to the
10 pilot program; and

11 (6) program administration.

12 Section 20. Reporting. After 3 years from the date of
13 implementation of the Illinois Harvest to Homes Pilot Program
14 and after 5 years from the date of implementation of the pilot
15 program, the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with
16 the Department of Human Services Commission to End Hunger
17 shall submit a report to the General Assembly which documents
18 the number of people served by the program information
19 regarding the program's implementation.

20 Section 25. Repeal. This Act is repealed on July 1, 2027.

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.