

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 57

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCFARLAND, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BISHOP, BOURRIAQUE, BRASS, BROWN, BRYANT, BUTLER, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, CREWS, DAVIS, DUBUISSON, DUPLESSIS, ECHOLS, EDMONDS, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FISHER, FREEMAN, GADBERRY, HARRIS, HILFERTY, HORTON, ILLG, JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, KERNER, LACOMBE, LYONS, MACK, MARCELLE, MARINO, MCCORMICK, MCMAHEN, DUSTIN MILLER, MINCEY, NEWELL, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PIERRE, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, STAGNI, TARVER, THOMPSON, TURNER, VILLIO, WHEAT, AND WHITE AND SENATORS ALLAIN, CATHEY, JACKSON, MORRIS, AND WOMACK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Legislature of Louisiana to support the "Greaux the Good" farmers market match program.

WHEREAS, according to the Louisiana State University AgCenter, agriculture creates an annual economic impact to Louisiana of nearly eleven billion dollars making it one of the top economic industries in the state; and

WHEREAS, fruits and vegetable crops account for around one hundred and sixty-six million dollars in total farm value to the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) there are twenty-seven thousand farm operations in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, four percent or just over one thousand farmers in Louisiana operate as direct to consumer; and

WHEREAS, farmers typically make seventeen cents of every food dollar spent through traditional food marketing systems, but can make up to one hundred percent of every food dollar spent in direct to consumer operations thus increasing the amount of money farmers make off of the commodities they produce; and

WHEREAS, the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 7517 to allow the USDA to provide funding opportunities to conduct and evaluate projects providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers; and

WHEREAS, the GusNIP has aided in the creation of market match programs throughout the country, including Louisiana, whereby recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as SNAP, can receive a dollar for dollar match up to a particular amount to use for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and local producers; and

WHEREAS, according to recent USDA data, there are nine hundred seven thousand Louisiana residents, nearly one quarter of the state's population, enrolled in SNAP; and

WHEREAS, there are thirty-four SNAP authorized farmers markets in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was established by Congress in 1992, to provide fresh, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables to participants of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) federal assistance program, and to expand awareness, use of, and sales at farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, according to the USDA, fifteen percent of all Louisiana homes in 2020 suffered from food insecurity, which is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control, Louisiana suffers from some of the poorest health outcomes in the country, in large part due to forty-seven and a half percent of adults reporting they consumed fruit less than one time daily and nearly thirty-three percent reporting they consumed vegetables less than one time daily; and

WHEREAS, SNAP aids in reducing hunger and food insecurity, and matching programs are known to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables in low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the "Greux the Good" program will provide Louisiana farmers markets and operations with funding to create or expand a market match SNAP program whereby increasing the number of shoppers at farmers markets and the amount of fresh produce consumed in Louisiana, will create a mutual benefit of positively impacting the state's agricultural economy and farmers while helping to decrease the food insecurity of some of the most vulnerable populations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the membership of each body to recognize the farmers market match programs for SNAP and FMNP recipients in the state as the "Greaux the Good" program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the membership of each body appropriate funds for the "Greaux the Good" program in order to increase the size and scope of the program which will support local farmers and decrease food insecurity in the state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE