

SENATE BILL NO. 370—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MARCH 25, 2021

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to food policy.
(BDR 50-824)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to food policy; creating the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program and the Nutritious Food Purchase Account; requiring the Director of the State Department of Agriculture to develop a procedure through which the Director may purchase nutritious foods that are grown, produced or processed in this State; requiring the Director to distribute nutritious food to certain food banks; requiring the food banks to distribute such food to persons in need; requiring the food banks to submit quarterly reports to the Director; requiring the Director to submit an annual written report to the Council on Food Security; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Council on Food Security within the Department of Health and Human Services. (NRS 232.4966) Existing law requires the Council to develop, coordinate and implement a food system that, among other things, increases access to improved food resource programs. (NRS 232.4968) Existing law requires the Director of the State Department of Agriculture to establish a Supplemental Food Program to supplement the supply of food and services provided by programs which provide food to indigent persons. Such programs include food banks, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Existing law requires the Director to purchase and distribute nutritious food to persons in this State who cannot afford to purchase food. Such purchases must be made with funds from the Donated Commodities Account. (NRS 561.485, 561.495)

Section 1.7 of this bill creates the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program to supplement the supply to nutritious food which is available to persons through food banks and certain other providers in this State. **Section 1.7**



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authorizes the Director to solicit and accept any gift, grant or donation for the Program, and **section 1.5** creates the Nutritious Food Purchase Account in the State General Fund into which any money obtained by the Director for the Program must be deposited. **Section 1.7** requires the Director to develop a procedure through which the Director may purchase nutritious food that is grown, produced or processed in this State. **Section 1.7** additionally requires the Director to distribute the food to certain food banks. **Section 1.7** requires such food banks to distribute the nutritious food to persons, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters based on need in the area that the food bank serves. **Section 1.7** requires each food bank to submit a quarterly report to the Director concerning: (1) the amount of nutritious food that was distributed by the food bank; and (2) the manner of such distribution. Finally, **section 1.7** requires the Director to submit an annual written report containing certain information to the Council on Food Security.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 1.3. Chapter 561 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 1.5 and 1.7 of this act.

Sec. 1.5. 1. *The Nutritious Food Purchase Account is hereby created in the State General Fund for the use of the Director in carrying out the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program in accordance with section 1.7 of this act.*

2. *All money received by the Director pursuant to section 1.7 of this act must be deposited in the State Treasury for credit to the Nutritious Food Purchase Account. The interest and income earned on the money in the Account must be credited to the Account.*

Sec. 1.7. 1. *The Director shall establish the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program to supplement the supply of nutritious food available to persons through food banks and other providers, as identified in subsection 4.*

2. *The Director may solicit and accept any gift, grant or donation for the Program. Upon receipt of any gift, grant or donation of money, the amount received must be deposited in the Nutritious Food Purchase Account created by section 1.5 of this act. Gifts, grants and donations deposited in the Account must be used in the same manner as other money in the Account.*

3. *In carrying out the Program, the Director shall develop a procedure through which nutritious food that is grown, produced or processed in this State may be purchased by the Director and distributed at no cost to food banks in this State for distribution pursuant to subsection 4. The Director shall determine the cost for purchasing such nutritious food through a negotiated process.*



The money in the Nutritious Food Purchase Account must only be used to pay reasonable expenses related to:

(a) Operating the Program; and

(b) Purchasing, transporting and distributing the nutritious food.

4. Upon receiving the nutritious food pursuant to subsection 3, a food bank shall distribute at no cost the nutritious food to persons, emergency food pantries, soup kitchens or homeless shelters, based on need, in the area that the food bank serves.

5. Any food bank that receives nutritious food pursuant to subsection 3 shall submit a quarterly report to the Director concerning:

(a) The amount of nutritious food that was distributed pursuant to subsection 4; and

(b) The manner in which the nutritious food was distributed pursuant to subsection 4.

6. On or before September 30 of each year, the Director shall submit a written report of the Council on Food Security concerning the following matters from the immediately preceding fiscal year:

(a) All expenditures from the Nutritious Food Purchase Account created by section 1.5 of this act;

(b) The number of people and households served by the Program; and

(c) The variety, supply and cost of purchases made pursuant to subsection 3.

7. As used in this section:

(a) "Council on Food Security" means the Council on Food Security created by NRS 232.4966.

(b) "Food bank" means a food bank or other organization that is a member of the Feeding America network.

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of NRS 218D.430 and 218D.435, a committee, other than the Assembly Standing Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Committee on Finance, may vote on this act before the expiration of the period prescribed for the return of a fiscal note in NRS 218D.475. This section applies retroactively from and after March 22, 2021.

