



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5337

LCO No. 2435



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

AN ACT CONCERNING A "FOOD IS MEDICINE TASK FORCE" AND HEALTHY EATING INCENTIVES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 "Connecticut Food is Medicine" task force to study ways to improve
3 health outcomes for needy individuals and families through nutritional
4 assistance. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, establishing
5 incentives for recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance to
6 purchase more fresh fruit and vegetables and encouraging more
7 farmers' markets to participate in nutritional assistance programs.

8 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

9 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
10 one of whom has expertise in nutritional assistance programs and one
11 of whom has expertise in the health benefits of consuming more fresh
12 fruit and vegetables;

13 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

14 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
15 Representatives;

16 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

17 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
18 Representatives;

19 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

20 (7) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's
21 designee;

22 (8) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's
23 designee;

24 (9) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
25 designee;

26 (10) The Commissioner of Early Childhood, or the commissioner's
27 designee; and

28 (11) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
29 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

30 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivisions (1) to
31 (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
32 General Assembly.

33 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
34 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
35 be filled by the appointing authority.

36 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
37 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
38 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
39 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
40 days after the effective date of this section.

41 (f) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children,
42 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity shall serve as administrative staff of
43 the task force.

44 (g) Not later than January 1, 2023, the task force shall submit a report
45 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
46 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
47 children, education, the environment, human services, public health
48 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies, in accordance
49 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task
50 force shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January
51 1, 2023, whichever is later.

52 *Sec. 2. (Effective from passage)* (a) The Commissioners of Agriculture,
53 Public Health and Social Services, shall, to the extent permissible under
54 federal law and within available appropriations, develop a strategy to
55 increase the numbers of needy individuals and families who purchase
56 fresh fruit and vegetables at farmers' markets.

57 (b) The strategy shall include, but not be limited to, the (1)
58 establishment of a health incentives program whereby recipients of
59 supplemental nutritional assistance receive a match in supplemental
60 nutrition assistance dollars for every such dollar they spend on fresh
61 vegetables and fruits at farmers' markets; and (2) encouragement of
62 expanded enrollment in the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Women,
63 Infants and Children Nutrition Program, as established in section 22-6h
64 of the general statutes, by establishing office hours for the program at
65 Head Start and other early childhood centers.

66 (c) Not later than January 1, 2023, the commissioners shall report, in
67 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on results of
68 implementation of the strategy to the joint standing committees of the
69 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children,
70 education, the environment, human services, public health and
71 appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The report shall
72 include, but not be limited to, (1) any increase in sales at farmers'

73 markets related to implementation of the strategy, (2) any increase in
74 enrollment in the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Women, Infants and
75 Children Nutrition Program, and (3) the fiscal impact on the state of
76 implementing the strategy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to study ways to expand nutritional assistance and create incentives for healthier eating.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]