HOUSE RESEARCH

- Bill Summary

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This bill appropriates \$500,000 in each fiscal year of the 2018-2019 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for food shelf programs. Adds this appropriation to the base and allows it to be used to purchase proteins, fruits, and vegetables.

The food shelf program is administered by the commissioner of human services and requires the commissioner to distribute funds appropriated for the food shelf program to Hunger Solutions, a statewide association of food shelves organized as a nonprofit corporation, to distribute to qualifying food shelves. A food shelf qualifies if it:

(1) is a nonprofit corporation, or is affiliated with a nonprofit corporation;

(2) distributes standard food orders without charge to needy individuals; the standard food order must consist of at least a two-day supply or six pounds per person of nutritionally balanced food items;

(3) does not limit food distributions to individuals of a particular religious affiliation, race, or other criteria unrelated to need or to requirements necessary to administration of a fair and orderly distribution system;

(4) does not use the money received or the food distribution program to foster or advance religious or political views; and

(5) has a stable address and directly serves individuals.