

Subject Healthy Eating, Here at Home; Fresh Bucks Pilot Program

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Overview

This bill transfers the Healthy Eating, Here at Home program from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health and adds persons receiving Summer EBT benefits to the program. It also establishes a Fresh Bucks pilot program at the Department of Health and appropriates money to the commissioner of health for these two programs.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Establishment.</p> <p>Amends § 138.912, subd. 1. Modifies the healthy eating, here at home program to allow low-income Minnesotans to use Summer EBT benefits for healthy purchases at farmers' markets, mobile markets, and direct-farmer sale (under current law Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits may be used for these purposes).</p>
2	<p>Definitions.</p> <p>Amends § 138.912, subd. 2. Amends definitions for the healthy eating, here at home program to conform with the program being transferred from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health and persons receiving Summer EBT benefits being added to the program.</p>
3	<p>Grants.</p> <p>Amends § 138.912, subd. 3. Directs the Department of Health, rather than the Minnesota Humanities Center, to allocate grants for the healthy eating, here at home program and adds persons receiving Summer EBT benefits to the persons who may receive vouchers under the program.</p>

Section	Description
4	<p>Household eligibility; participation.</p> <p>Amends § 138.912, subd. 4. Adds Summer EBT eligibility requirements to the eligibility requirements an eligible household may meet to receive a healthy eating, here at home voucher.</p>
5	<p>Program reporting.</p> <p>Amends § 138.912, subd. 6. Requires nonprofit organizations receiving grant funds under the healthy eating, here at home program to report on program operations to the Department of Health, rather than the Minnesota Humanities Center.</p>
6	<p>Fresh Bucks pilot program.</p> <p>Establishes a fresh bucks pilot program at the Department of Health to help Minnesotans receiving SNAP or Summer EBT benefits purchase fresh produce from retailers. Allows eligible households to use EBT cards at SNAP retailers to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on the purchase of produce, up to a \$20 match per eligible household per day and up to a monthly limit of \$80 per eligible household. Lists duties for the nonprofit organization selected by the department to administer the program, and lists criteria SNAP retailers must meet to participate in the program and other criteria that must be considered. Directs the commissioner of children, youth and families to submit a waiver request to the federal Department of Agriculture to include SNAP retailers in this program. Requires the department to submit a report to certain members of the legislature on participating retailers, individuals and areas served, costs, and other information to understand the reach and effectiveness of the program.</p> <p>Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.</p>
7	<p>Appropriations; healthy eating, here at home; fresh bucks pilot program.</p> <p>Appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the healthy eating, here at home program.</p> <p>Appropriates \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the fresh bucks pilot program. Provides this is a onetime appropriation and is available until January 1, 2028.</p>
8	<p>Transfer of program.</p> <p>Transfers the healthy eating, here at home program from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health effective July 1, 2025.</p>

Section	Description
9	Revisor instruction. Directs the revisor of statutes to recodify the healthy eating, here at home program in chapter 144.
10	Repealer. Repeals section 138.912, subd. 7 (directs the commissioner of children, youth and families to submit a waiver request to the USDA to include Minnesota grocery stores in the healthy eating, here at home program).



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