

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2004

S.P. 820

In Senate, December 5, 2025

**An Act to Enhance Support of Local Nutrition Incentive Programs
by Modifying the Eligibility Requirements of the Fund to Address
Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.

Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and

Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-B, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §7, is amended to read:

§219-B. Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives

1. Fund established. The Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to provide incentives to ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance programs. The fund is established to match contributions from private and public sources of up to \$50,000 annually to further the purposes of this section. The fund, to be accounted within the department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. For purposes of this section, "local" means within the State.

2. Fund recipients. An organization based in the State that supports local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance may receive proceeds from the fund upon application with the department. The department shall prioritize an applicant that has a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrates the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The department shall periodically post a request for applications for eligible organizations to apply for fund proceeds.

3. Report; audit. The department shall require a periodic report from a recipient under subsection 2 detailing the use of fund proceeds and the ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance programs involved and to ensure that the funds are expended appropriately pursuant to this section. The department may audit a recipient to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

4. Rules. The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund, including application criteria and procedures for recipients, disbursement of funds to recipients and for outreach and administration purposes and reporting and audit procedures for recipients.

SUMMARY

This bill makes funds from the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives more readily available to local nutrition incentive programs by removing language that specifies federal food and nutrition assistance programs.