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SENATE FILE 349
BY BOLKCOM

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a local food distribution program and fund at
2 the Leopold center for sustainable agriculture at Iowa state
3 university of science and technology.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 349
EDUCATION

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 266.39G LOCAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. A local food distribution program is established at the
4 Leopold center for sustainable agriculture at Iowa state
5 university of science and technology for the purpose of
6 promoting the sale of food grown or produced in Iowa.

7 2. Local food distribution projects which promote the sale
8 of food grown or produced in Iowa may be eligible for
9 financial assistance under the program, provided that the
10 project has not received, or is not eligible for, financial
11 assistance from other existing private, local, or state funds
12 or programs as determined by the director of the Leopold
13 center. For purposes of this section, "local food
14 distribution projects" includes, but is not limited to,
15 projects to assist in the marketing and purchasing of local
16 foods, promote the creation of structured local food system
17 networks, facilitate cooperation between local food producers
18 and markets, facilitate the processing of local foods, assist
19 with compliance with food safety requirements, and provide
20 education regarding foods produced, processed, and distributed
21 in Iowa.

22 3. A local food distribution fund is created within the
23 state treasury under the control of the Leopold center for
24 sustainable agriculture at Iowa state university of science
25 and technology.

26 a. The director of the Leopold center may establish and
27 maintain revolving funds to support and account for the
28 services provided by the program. These funds shall be
29 administered by the Leopold center and shall consist of moneys
30 appropriated to the fund by the general assembly, payments of
31 interest earned, recapture of awards, repayments of moneys
32 loaned or expended from the fund, and any other moneys
33 designated, obtained, or accepted by the Leopold center for
34 purposes of the program.

35 b. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the Leopold

1 center to be used for the following:

2 (1) To provide reimbursement to the Leopold center for
3 activities related to the program under this section.

4 (2) To provide financial assistance for qualifying
5 projects.

6 (3) To provide funding for any other purpose consistent
7 with this section and deemed appropriate by the director of
8 the Leopold center.

9 c. Section 8.33 shall not apply to the local food
10 distribution fund. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, interest
11 earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

12 4. The Leopold center shall provide financial assistance
13 in the form of a loan or grant or combination thereof as
14 deemed by the center to be most efficient in facilitating the
15 local food distribution project. In furtherance of this
16 section, the center may:

17 a. Enter into contracts and sue and be sued. However, the
18 center shall not in any manner directly or indirectly pledge
19 the credit of the state of Iowa.

20 b. Authorize payments of costs, commissions, attorney
21 fees, and other reasonable expenses from the fund.

22 c. Adopt procedures and guidelines as necessary for this
23 program.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill establishes a local food distribution program and
26 fund to promote the sale of food grown or produced in Iowa.
27 The program and fund are established within the Leopold center
28 for sustainable agriculture at Iowa state university of
29 science and technology. Projects that may be eligible for a
30 grant or loan or combination thereof include those assisting
31 in marketing and purchasing of local foods, promoting local
32 food system networks, facilitating cooperation between
33 producers, markets, and the processing of local foods,
34 assisting with food safety compliance, and providing education
35 regarding Iowa foods. Only projects that are without other

1 financial assistance, as determined by the director of the
2 Leopold center, are eligible for funds from the program.

3 The bill provides that moneys from the fund shall be used
4 for reimbursement to the Leopold center for activities related
5 to the program, to provide financial assistance for qualifying
6 projects, and to provide funding for any other purpose deemed
7 appropriate by the director of the Leopold center. These
8 funds shall not revert under Code section 8.33 and all
9 interest earned on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the
10 fund.

11 The bill provides that the Leopold center may enter into
12 contracts, sue and be sued, authorize payments of costs and
13 other reasonable expenses, and adopt procedures and guidelines
14 as necessary.

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