

House File 486 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 486

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a local food and farm program initiative
2 and making appropriations.

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

DIVISION I

LOCAL FOOD AND FARM INITIATIVE

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 267A.1 Purpose and goals.

1. The purpose of this chapter is to empower farmers and food entrepreneurs to provide for strong local food economies that promote self-sufficiency and job growth in the agricultural sector and allied sectors of the economy.

2. The goals of this chapter are to accomplish all of the following:

a. Promote the expansion of the production of local foods, including all of the following:

(1) The production of Iowa-grown food, including but not limited to livestock, eggs, milk, fruit, vegetables, grains, herbs, honey, and nuts.

(2) The processing of Iowa-grown agricultural products into food products, including canning, freezing, dehydrating, bottling, or otherwise packaging and preserving such products.

(3) The distribution and marketing of fresh and processed Iowa-grown agricultural food products to markets in this state and neighboring states.

b. Increase consumer and institutional spending on Iowa-produced and marketed foods.

c. Increase the profitability of farmers and businesses engaged in enterprises related to producing, processing, distributing, and marketing local food.

d. Increase the number of jobs in this state's farm and business economies associated with producing, processing, distributing, and marketing local food.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 267A.2 Definitions.

As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Coordinator" means the local food and farm program coordinator created in section 267A.4.

2. "Council" means the local food and farm program council established in section 267A.3.

1 3. "Department" means the department of agriculture and land
2 stewardship.

3 4. "Fund" means the local food and farm program fund created
4 in section 267A.5.

5 5. "State agency" means the same as defined in section
6 8A.101.

7 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 267A.3 Local food and farm program
8 council.

9 1. A local food and farm program council is established to
10 advise the local food and farm program coordinator carrying out
11 the purpose and goals of this chapter as provided in section
12 267A.1.

13 2. The council shall be composed of members appointed as
14 follows:

15 a. Members appointed at the discretion of and by the
16 following organizations to represent the private sector:

17 (1) One person by the Iowa farm bureau federation who is
18 engaged in local food production.

19 (2) One person by the practical farmers of Iowa who is
20 involved in local food production.

21 (3) One person by the Iowa farmers union who is involved in
22 local food production.

23 (4) One person by the Iowa food policy council.

24 (5) One person by the Iowa grocery industry association who
25 is involved in local food marketing.

26 (6) One person by the Iowa meat processors association.

27 (7) One person by the Iowa fruit and vegetable growers
28 association.

29 (8) One person by the Iowa farmers market association.

30 (9) One person by the Iowa bankers association.

31 b. Members appointed by the governor to represent the
32 private sector which include all of the following:

33 (1) One person actively engaged in the distribution of local
34 food to processors, wholesalers, or retailers.

35 (2) Two persons from two regional food systems working

1 groups.

2 c. Members appointed by the titular heads of state agencies
3 to represent their respective state agencies or institutions
4 as follows:

- 5 (1) The department of agriculture and land stewardship.
- 6 (2) The department of economic development.
- 7 (3) The department of administrative services.
- 8 (4) The department of human services. The appointed person
9 shall have a special knowledge of refugee services.
- 10 (5) The department of inspections and appeals.
- 11 (6) The department of education.
- 12 (7) The department of public health.
- 13 (8) The department of workforce development.
- 14 (9) The department of cultural affairs.
- 15 (10) The Leopold center for sustainable agriculture.
- 16 (11) Iowa state university extension service.
- 17 (12) Iowa state university of science and technology.
- 18 (13) The university of Iowa.
- 19 (14) The university of northern Iowa.

20 3. A member appointed under this section to serve on
21 the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing
22 organization, official, state agency, or institution.

23 4. The department, acting either directly or indirectly
24 under contract with a state board of regents institution, shall
25 perform administrative functions necessary for the management
26 of the council.

27 5. The council shall elect a chairperson from among its
28 members each year on a rotating basis as provided by the
29 council. The council shall meet on a regular basis and at the
30 call of the chairperson or upon the written request to the
31 chairperson of a majority of the members.

32 6. The members of the council shall not receive compensation
33 for their services including as provided in section 7E.6.
34 However, the members may be reimbursed for their actual and
35 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties

1 as members of the council if allowed by the council.

2 7. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum and
3 the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present
4 is necessary for any substantive action to be taken by the
5 council. The majority shall not include any member who has
6 a conflict of interest and a statement by a member that the
7 member has a conflict of interest is conclusive for this
8 purpose. A vacancy in the membership does not impair the
9 duties of the council.

10 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **267A.4 Local food and farm program**
11 **coordinator.**

12 The position of local food and farm program coordinator is
13 created within the department. The coordinator shall be the
14 primary state official charged with carrying out the purpose
15 and goals of this chapter. The coordinator shall be stationed
16 by the department at a state board of regents institution under
17 a cost-sharing agreement with the institution.

18 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **267A.5 Local food and farm program**
19 **fund.**

20 A local food and farm program fund is created in the state
21 treasury under the control of the department. The fund is
22 separate from the general fund of the state. The fund is
23 composed of moneys appropriated by the general assembly and
24 moneys available to and obtained or accepted by the local food
25 and farm program from the United States government or private
26 sources for placement in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall
27 be used to carry out the purpose and goals of this chapter
28 as provided in section 267A.1, including but not limited to
29 administering the local food and farm program as provided in
30 section 267A.6. The fund shall be managed by the local food
31 and farm program coordinator under the supervision of the local
32 food and farm program council.

33 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **267A.6 Local food and farm program.**

34 1. The local food and farm program coordinator, with advice
35 from the local food and farm program council, shall develop and

1 administer a local food and farm program necessary to carry out
2 the purpose and goals of this chapter.

3 2. The purpose of the program is to do any of the following:

4 a. Improve communication and cooperation between and among
5 farmers, food entrepreneurs, and consumers.

6 b. Improve coordination between and among government
7 agencies, public universities and community colleges,
8 organizations, and private-sector firms working on local food
9 and farm-related issues.

10 c. Assist in educational needs assessment and curriculum
11 development and delivery regarding local food and farm-related
12 services.

13 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 267A.7 Local food and farm program
14 report.

15 1. The local food and farm program coordinator shall prepare
16 an annual report dated June 30, which shall evaluate the
17 state's progress in accomplishing the purpose and goals of this
18 chapter.

19 2. The report shall include a summary of all the following:

20 a. Benchmarks and goals of the program.

21 b. Actions taken by the local food and farm program council.

22 c. Activities and accomplishments of the local food and farm
23 program coordinator.

24 d. Recommendations for proposed legislation to be considered
25 by the general assembly and the governor.

26 e. The amount and source of moneys appropriated or credited
27 to, or deposited into the local food and farm program fund, and
28 the amount and purposes of expenditures from the fund.

29 3. The annual report shall be delivered to the governor and
30 general assembly not later than October 1.

31 Sec. 8. CONSIDERATION OF IOWA LOCAL FOOD AND FARM PLAN. In
32 developing the local food and farm program as provided in this
33 Act, the local food and farm program coordinator shall consider
34 the implementation of feasible recommendations contained in
35 the Iowa local farm and food plan published by the Leopold

1 center for sustainable agriculture in January 2011. The
2 coordinator shall provide the plan to the division of libraries
3 and information services of the department of education for
4 publication as provided in section 256.53.

5 DIVISION II

6 APPROPRIATIONS

7 Sec. 9. APPROPRIATION — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND
8 STEWARDSHIP — LOCAL FOOD AND FARM PROGRAM COORDINATOR. There
9 is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
10 department of agriculture and land stewardship for the fiscal
11 period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, the
12 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
13 used for the purposes designated:

14 1. For purposes of supporting a local food and farm program
15 coordinator as provided in this Act, for salaries, support,
16 maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes, and for not more than
17 the following full-time equivalent positions:

18	\$	150,000
19	FTEs	1.00

20 2. The department shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement
21 with a state board of regents institution to support the
22 coordinator. The coordinator shall be stationed at that state
23 board of regents institution as provided in this Act.

24 Sec. 10. APPROPRIATION — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
25 AND LAND STEWARDSHIP — IOWA FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM. There
26 is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
27 department of agriculture and land stewardship for the fiscal
28 period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30, 2013, the
29 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
30 used for the purposes designated:

31 For purposes of supporting the farm-to-school program as
32 established in chapter 190A:

33	\$	100,000
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34 EXPLANATION

35 LOCAL FOOD AND FARM INITIATIVE. This bill provides for an

1 initiative related to the production, processing, and marketing
2 of local foods. The initiative is administered by a local food
3 and farm program council comprised of members representing
4 both the private and public sectors and a local food and farm
5 program coordinator established within the department of
6 agriculture and land stewardship but stationed in a state board
7 of regents institution under a cost-sharing agreement with the
8 institution.

9 The bill establishes a local food and farm program fund under
10 the control of the department and managed by the coordinator
11 under the supervision of the council. The bill establishes a
12 local food and farm program administered by the coordinator
13 with advice from the council. The purpose of the program is
14 to improve communication and cooperation between interested
15 persons, improve coordination between and among government
16 entities and private-sector firms, and assist in providing
17 education. In developing the program, the coordinator must
18 consider the implementation of feasible recommendations
19 contained in the Iowa local food and farm plan published by the
20 Leopold center for sustainable agriculture.

21 The bill requires the coordinator to prepare an annual
22 report to the general assembly and the governor detailing
23 the work of the council and coordinator and including
24 recommendations.

25 APPROPRIATIONS. The bill appropriates moneys from the
26 general fund of the state to the department of agriculture
27 and land stewardship for fiscal years beginning July 1,
28 2011, and July 1, 2012, for purposes of supporting the local
29 food and farm program coordinator to be stationed at a state
30 regents institution. The bill also appropriates moneys to
31 the department of agriculture and land stewardship for the
32 fiscal period beginning July 1, 2011, and ending June 30,
33 2013, for purposes of supporting the farm-to-school program as
34 established in Code chapter 190A.