

**House File 357 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 357

BY ISENHART

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the local food and farm program fund, by  
2 making a name change and making an appropriation to the fund  
3 to support projects for the development or expansion of food  
4 hubs or farming innovation zones.

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

1 Section 1. Section 267A.2, subsection 4, Code 2015, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

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

5 Sec. 2. Section 267A.5, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 **267A.5 Local food and farm ~~program~~ innovation fund.**

8 A local food and farm ~~program~~ innovation fund is created in  
9 the state treasury under the control of the department. The  
10 fund is separate from the general fund of the state. The fund  
11 is composed of moneys appropriated by the general assembly and  
12 moneys available to and obtained or accepted by the local food  
13 and farm program from the United States government or private  
14 sources for placement in the fund. Moneys in the fund shall  
15 be used to carry out the purpose and goals of this chapter  
16 as provided in section 267A.1, including but not limited to  
17 administering the local food and farm program as provided in  
18 section 267A.6. The fund shall be managed by the department in  
19 consultation with the local food and farm coordinator, under  
20 the supervision of the local food and farm program council.

21 **Sec. 3. LOCAL FOOD AND FARM INNOVATION FUND — APPROPRIATION**  
22 **TO SUPPORT FOOD HUBS OR FARMING INNOVATION ZONES PROJECTS.**

23 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the state  
24 to the local food and farm innovation fund created in section  
25 267A.5, as amended by this Act, for the fiscal year beginning  
26 July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the following amount,  
27 or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes  
28 designated:

29 For purposes of supporting food hubs or farming innovation  
30 zones projects as provided in this section:

31 ..... \$ 1,000,000

32 2. Moneys appropriated in subsection 1 shall be allocated by  
33 the local food and farm program council established pursuant  
34 to section 267A.3 to support projects for the development or  
35 expansion of food hubs or farming innovation zones in this

1 state.

2 a. A food hub must be a centrally located facility with a  
3 business management structure facilitating the aggregation,  
4 storage, processing, distribution, or marketing of locally or  
5 regionally produced food or food products.

6 b. A farming innovation zone must be a publicly recognized  
7 location for research, development, demonstration, and  
8 education that does all of the following:

9 (1) Prepares beginning farmers for the production of  
10 diversified food products in Iowa for processing, wholesaling,  
11 and retailing on a local or regional basis.

12 (2) Fosters the diversification of farm operations in which  
13 existing producers are engaged.

14 (3) Supports the creation and expansion of production and  
15 market infrastructure for a local foods economy, including but  
16 not limited to food hubs.

17 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys that remain  
18 unencumbered or unobligated at the end of the fiscal year shall  
19 not revert but shall remain available to support the purposes  
20 of this section for the succeeding fiscal year.

21

EXPLANATION

22 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
23 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

24 This bill amends provisions referring to the local food and  
25 farm program fund. The bill changes its name to the local food  
26 and farm innovation fund. The bill appropriates \$1 million  
27 from the general fund of the state to the renamed fund for  
28 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30,  
29 2016, to support projects for the development or expansion  
30 of food hubs or farming innovation zones in this state. Any  
31 unencumbered or unobligated moneys at the end of the fiscal  
32 year are to remain available to support the purposes of this  
33 section for the succeeding fiscal year. The bill provides that  
34 a food hub must be used to facilitate the aggregation, storage,  
35 processing, distribution, or marketing of locally or regionally

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1 produced food or food products. The bill provides for a farm  
2 innovation zone that provides for research, development,  
3 demonstration, and education to (1) prepare beginning farmers  
4 for local production and retailing, (2) foster diversification  
5 of farm operations, and (3) support the creation and expansion  
6 of infrastructure for a local foods economy.