

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Representative Northcutt**

A Bill

HOUSE BILL

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS FARMERS_ MARKET
9 NUTRITION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS, LOCALLY PRODUCED
10 FOODS AND NUTRITION EDUCATION TO LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS
11 WHO ARE NUTRITIONALLY AT RISK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

14 "TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS FARMERS_ MARKET NUTRITION
15 PROGRAM."

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
20 Farmers_ Market Nutrition Program Act".

22 SECTION 2. This act is to establish the Arkansas Farmers_ Market
23 Nutrition Program as a state supported and funded program eligible to receive
24 additional support and funding from any Federal, Public, or Private resource
25 for the following purposes:

26 (a) to provide nutritionally at-risk individuals and families nutrition
27 education and fresh, locally grown fruits, nuts and vegetables; and

28 (b) to expand public awareness and stimulate individual use of farmers_
29 markets to increase the purchase of locally grown foods, thereby reducing the
30 negative environmental impact of food packaging and shipping while enhancing a
31 beneficial economic and social climate in the community.

33 SECTION 3. Definitions:

34 (a) "ArFMNP" means the Arkansas Farmers_ Market Nutrition Program.

35 (b) "Coupon" means a nontaxable nutrition supplement coupon issued and

1 distributed by the ArFMNP for redeeming locally grown foods as provided by
2 this act.

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4 SECTION 4. The Department of Health shall administer ArFMNP and shall
5 establish the methods and procedures for selecting sites and issuing,
6 distributing and redeeming non-taxable Nutrition Supplement Coupons pursuant
7 to the following criteria:

8 (a) coupons shall be distributed to optimize benefits to the greatest
9 number of nutritionally at-risk individuals and families;

10 (b) recipients shall receive coupons in an amount not less than ten
11 (\$10) dollars per year and not in excess of twenty dollars (\$20) per year;

12 (c) farmers_ markets and farmers or vendors are targeted to optimize
13 the economic benefits to small farmers; and

14 (d) the ArFMNP operates in compliance with all Federal WIC Farmers_
15 Market Nutrition Program criteria, including providing for administrative
16 costs and assurances of civil rights and equal employment opportunity.

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18 SECTION 5. Nutrition education, including nutritional value, food
19 preparation, storage and safety, shall be provided for recipients by a
20 collaborative effort between the Department of Health and the University of
21 Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

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23 SECTION 6. To qualify for redemption of the nutrition supplement
24 coupons all farmers or vendors shall be Arkansas producers or shall represent
25 Arkansas producers trained by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension
26 Service to participate in this program. All produce exchanged for nutrition
27 supplement coupons shall be fresh and unprocessed fruits, vegetables or nuts
28 grown in Arkansas.

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30 SECTION 7. To the extent funds are available, the Department of Health
31 is authorized to enforce this act and to promulgate necessary rules and
32 regulations to implement this act.

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34 SECTION 8. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
35 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code

1 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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3 SECTION 9. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
4 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
5 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
6 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
7 act are declared to be severable.

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9 SECTION 10. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
10 hereby repealed.

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12 SECTION 11. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby found and determined that
13 certain individuals and families are nutritionally at risk due to a lack of
14 fresh unprocessed food such as fruits and vegetables; that these foods are
15 vital to the health, welfare and safety of the people of this state and a
16 program providing these essential nutrients is necessary; this act will
17 provide essential nutrition to these individuals described herein and those
18 needs will not be properly met until this program is in effect; and that the
19 immediate passage of this act is necessary to accomplish the purpose stated
20 herein. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act, being
21 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and
22 safety, shall be in full force and effective from and after the date of its
23 passage and approval.

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