HOUSE BILL 207

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD; ENACTING THE FOOD, HUNGER AND FARM ACT;
CREATING THE FOOD, HUNGER AND FARM COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR
COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND DUTIES; ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR CERTAIN
STATE AGENCIES TO DEVELOP AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
TARGETED PLANS TO ADDRESS HUNGER AND NUTRITION, EXPAND ACCESS
TO FOOD AND PROMOTE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM THE
STATE; PROVIDING FOR DATA SHARING ON HUNGER AND FOOD SYSTEMS;
CREATING THE FOOD, HUNGER AND FARM FUND; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be
cited as the "Food, Hunger and Farm Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] FOOD, HUNGER AND FARM COUNCIL--
CREATION--DUTIES.--

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A. The "food, hunger and farm council" is created. The secretary of human services, in consultation with the New Mexico department of agriculture, shall appoint members to the council from:

1. tribal and local governments;
2. schools, universities and other educational institutions;
3. organizations pertaining to the operation of food banks;
4. nonprofit organizations established to provide food and reduce hunger or food insecurity;
5. agricultural producers and trade organizations;
6. dietitians, health care providers and hospital systems;
7. organizations and individuals working to reduce food insecurity, create more effective food systems, monitor food distribution, provide data analysis or advance New Mexico food product marketing and strategic planning;
8. the office of the governor; and
9. the following agencies:
   a. the New Mexico department of agriculture;
   b. the human services department;
   c. the aging and long-term services
department;

d (d) the children, youth and families department;

e (e) the public education department;

f (f) the higher education department;

g (g) the early childhood education and care department;

h (h) the Indian affairs department; and

(i) the homeland security and emergency management department.

B. The council shall annually develop a strategic plan that:

(1) identifies and assesses:

(a) the incidence, causes, trends and effects of hunger, malnutrition and food and water insecurity;

(b) all public and private meal programs, nutrition assistance, income support, mutual aid and other programs that assist individuals in accessing food;

(c) statewide infrastructure needs to support food processing, distribution and storage by agricultural producers and food providers;

(d) programs that assist farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers;

(e) economic and workforce challenges and opportunities impacting agricultural producers and their
capacity to grow, process, distribute and sell food in New Mexico;

(f) opportunities to enhance the use of technology, infrastructure and markets to support agricultural producers and provide access to local markets and food and meal programs;

(g) opportunities to support agricultural producers in enhancing agricultural productivity, soil and water conservation, ecosystem health and resilient practices and landscape resilience; and

(h) opportunities to support the growing of traditional foods, food sovereignty and seed saving; and

(2) provides recommendations for achieving the goals of the strategic plan through:

(a) targeted policy changes, including but not limited to expansion of state agriculture, meal, nutrition and related support programs;

(b) budgetary coordination and strategic funding mechanisms;

(c) the use of state and state-funded assets and infrastructure, including food storage, transportation and distribution infrastructure; and

(d) partnerships with private, nonprofit, tribal, federal and local entities.

C. The council shall present its strategic plan to
the governor, the secretary of finance and administration, the legislative finance committee and the appropriate legislative interim committees by December 1, 2022 and each December 1 occurring thereafter.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] FOOD PROCESSING, STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION.--The human services department, in consultation with the New Mexico department of agriculture, shall develop an annual food infrastructure plan that includes an inventory of and establishes recommendations to improve food processing, food storage and food distribution and other critical infrastructure and capital equipment needs to address statewide hunger. State entities with assets identified in the plan shall make those assets available to support implementation of the plan to the greatest extent practicable.

SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] MEAT INSPECTION AND PROCESSING PLAN.--The New Mexico livestock board, in consultation with the New Mexico department of agriculture and with agricultural producers and organizations, shall jointly and annually develop recommendations for a plan to improve meat inspection and processing and to improve the safety and quality of meat consumption. The plan shall include recommendations to support and sustain meat production infrastructure, processing and distribution in the state.

SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.--The New Mexico department of agriculture,
the economic development department, the public education
department, the New Mexico state university cooperative
extension service, the workforce solutions department and the
higher education department shall jointly and annually develop
recommendations for a plan to enhance economic development and
job creation resulting from agricultural production and food
distribution in the state, address workforce needs, rights and
wages and promote local processing, distribution and sale of
food and agricultural products produced in the state.

SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] NEW MEXICO-GROWN FOOD PRODUCTS
PLAN.--The public education department, the early childhood
education and care department, the aging and long-term services
department, the New Mexico department of agriculture, the
department of health and the corrections department shall
jointly and annually develop, in cooperation with meal and
nutrition support programs established by the state,
recommendations for a plan to increase the purchase of New
Mexico-grown food products and improve interagency
coordination, streamlining and administration.

SECTION 7. [NEW MATERIAL] HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY
REDUCTION PLAN FOR SCHOOLS AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.--
The public education department, the early childhood education
and care department and the higher education department, upon
consultation with higher education institutions of the state,
shall jointly and annually develop recommendations for a plan
to expand and improve meal programs at schools, early childhood
care facilities and higher education institutions, consider
adaptations to school meal programs to address barriers in
participation and address hunger and food insecurity among
student and staff populations.

SECTION 8. [NEW MATERIAL] AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE PLAN.--
The New Mexico department of agriculture, soil and water
conservation districts, the department of environment, the
state land office, the Indian affairs department and the
energy, minerals and natural resources department shall jointly
and annually develop recommendations for a statewide plan to
support resilient and traditional agricultural practices and
land stewardship, soil and water conservation, indigenous and
traditional food practices and seed saving and landscape-level
resilience. The plan shall be developed upon consultation with
agricultural producers, higher education institutions of the
state and other federal, tribal and nongovernmental
organizations.

SECTION 9. [NEW MATERIAL] MALNUTRITION PLAN.--The human
services department, in consultation with the New Mexico
department of agriculture, the aging and long-term services
department, the public education department, the higher
education department, the early childhood education and care
department, the Indian affairs department and the children,
youth and families department, shall jointly and annually

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develop recommendations for a plan to address malnutrition
among vulnerable groups, including children, senior citizens,
rural and low-income communities, people living in poverty and
other vulnerable groups as determined by the human services
department.

SECTION 10. [NEW MATERIAL] EMERGENCY AND LONG-TERM FOOD
AND HUNGER RELIEF PLAN.--The human services department, in
consultation with other state agencies, food banks, nonprofit
organizations, agricultural producers and organizations and
representatives of tribal and local governments, shall jointly
develop recommendations for a statewide plan to:

A. respond to and provide emergency relief for food
and water needs during a public emergency, which shall
consider:

(1) best practices;
(2) food and water supply vulnerabilities and
needs in the state;
(3) protocols for assessing food and water
needs in partnership with tribal and local governments; and
(4) the need for coordination and data
sharing; and

B. provide food relief on an ongoing basis in a
manner that addresses, in the long term, systemic hunger and
food insecurity.

SECTION 11. [NEW MATERIAL] FOOD AND INCOME SECURITY
PLAN--FEDERAL WAIVERS.--

A. The human services department, the aging and long-term services department, the public education department, the workforce solutions department and the children, youth and families department shall, in consultation with other state agencies that provide nutrition, support, meal and employment programs, jointly and annually develop recommendations for and implement a plan to increase food and income security by:

(1) maximizing eligibility and enrollment for state and federally funded programs;

(2) coordinating and streamlining meal, nutrition and employment programs, improving program processes and staffing and reducing caseloads and backlogs to improve access to services;

(3) providing for improved administration of meal, nutrition and employment programs through strategies including centralized resource centers, one-stop points of entry and joint case management;

(4) providing education to members of the public on existing meal, nutrition and employment programs and program eligibility and enrollment;

(5) training caseworkers and staff to provide services in a manner that is sensitive to victims of trauma and that is culturally and linguistically appropriate;

(6) increasing outreach for the federal
supplemental nutrition assistance program by partnering with
nongovernmental organizations; and

(7) expanding meal programs for vulnerable
populations, including senior meal programs, public school meal
programs and programs serving individuals with disabilities.

B. The income support division of the human
services department shall, to the extent permitted by federal
law, make timely applications for and timely renew all federal
waivers that will increase benefit amounts and the number of
individuals who qualify for and participate in the supplemental
nutrition assistance program.

SECTION 12. [NEW MATERIAL] PROCUREMENT STANDARD
RECOMMENDATIONS--PURCHASING DIVISION OF THE GENERAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT.--By November 1, 2021, the purchasing division of
the general services department shall develop recommendations
for changes to procurement requirements to increase the
percentage of food purchased by state agencies from food
producers and processors with a principal place of business in
New Mexico by fifty percent by January 1, 2030; provided that
the recommendations shall not apply to food banks.

SECTION 13. [NEW MATERIAL] REPORTING.--Plan
recommendations developed pursuant to the provisions of
Sections 2 through 11 of the Food, Hunger and Farm Act shall be
provided to the governor, the secretary of finance and
administration, the legislative finance committee and the
appropriate legislative interim committees by November 1, 2022 and each November 1 occurring thereafter.

SECTION 14. [NEW MATERIAL] HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT--

SHARED DATA PLATFORM.--By October 1, 2022, the human services department, in consultation with the food, hunger and farm council, shall develop and maintain a shared data platform on hunger and food systems in New Mexico for state agencies to:

A. analyze and monitor data pertaining to food, hunger and agricultural needs and assets;
B. share data across state agencies and with the public;
C. coordinate food chain sourcing, food distribution and food storage statewide; and
D. support emergency food and water relief efforts.

SECTION 15. [NEW MATERIAL] FOOD, HUNGER AND FARM FUND--

CREATED.--The "food, hunger and farm fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, income from investment of the fund and any other money credited to the fund. The fund shall be administered by the human services department, and money in the fund is appropriated to the human services department to carry out the purposes of the Food, Hunger and Farm Act. Money in the fund shall be disbursed on warrants signed by the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of human services.
SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION.--Seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the food, hunger and farm fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2022 and subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of the Food, Hunger and Farm Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.