



## **S.F. No. 1858 – Transferring the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program to the Department of Health; Establishing the Fresh Bucks Pilot Program (as proposed to be amended by the A-2 amendment)**

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### **Bill Overview**

**S.F. No. 1858** transfers administration of the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health. The program provides incentives for Minnesotans using SNAP benefits for fresh produce purchases from Minnesota-based farmer's markets, mobile markets, and direct-farmer sales, including community supported agriculture shares. The bill adds that SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits are eligible for use with the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program.

**S.F. No. 1858** also establishes the Fresh Bucks Pilot Program, which provides a dollar-for-dollar match on the purchase of fresh produce using EBT cards at certain SNAP retailers. The match is limited to \$20 per day per eligible household with a monthly limit of \$80 per household.

### **Section Summaries**

**Sections 1 – 5 [amends Minn. Stat. § 138.912, subdivisions 1-4; 6]** These sections provide that administration of the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program will transfer from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health. These sections add that SUN Bucks (Summer EBT) benefits (in addition to already-eligible SNAP benefits) may be used for purchases at Minnesota-based farmer's markets, mobile markets, and direct-farmer sales, including community supported agriculture shares.

### **Section 6. Fresh Bucks Pilot Program.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** This subdivision establishes the Fresh Bucks Pilot Program to enable eligible households to use EBT cards at certain SNAP retailers to receive a dollar-for-dollar match on the purchase of fresh produce of up to a \$20 match per day per eligible household, with a monthly limit of \$80 per eligible household.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** This subdivision defines key terms, including “eligible household,” “nonprofit organization,” “produce,” and “SNAP retailer.”

**Subd. 3. Program administration.** This subdivision provides that the commissioner of the Department of Health will select a nonprofit organization to assist in the administration and implementation of the program. The nonprofit organization must, among other duties, develop and issue program guidelines, establish monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and monitor the balance of program funds.

**Subd. 4. SNAP retailer selection criteria.** This subdivision provides the minimum criteria that SNAP retailers must meet in order to be eligible to participate in the program. SNAP retailers include grocery stores, small food retailers, and gas stations. The commissioner must consider geographic diversity of the participating SNAP retailer and its participating stores and a demonstrated commitment to carrying locally grown food, when possible, when selecting SNAP retailers.

**Subd. 5. Report.** This subdivision requires a report with data from the program, including the number of participating retailers, demographic information of participants, and program costs.

**Section 7. Appropriations; Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program; Fresh Bucks Pilot Program.** This section appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$500,000 in fiscal year 2027 for the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program. This section also provides onetime appropriations of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 for the Fresh Bucks Pilot Program, available until January 1, 2028.

**Section 8. Transfer of program.** This section transfers the Healthy Eating, Here at Home Program from the Minnesota Humanities Center to the Department of Health on July 1, 2025.

**Section 9. Revisor instructions.** This section requires the Revisor of Statutes to renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 138.912 as Minnesota Statutes, section 144.0554.

**Section 10. Repealer.** This section repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 138.912, subdivision 7.



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