

**As Amended by House Committee**

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*Session of 2024*

**HOUSE BILL No. 2564**

By Committee on Appropriations

Requested by Mallory Lutz on behalf of the Kansas Food and Farm Coalition

1-22

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1 AN ACT concerning agriculture; relating to the Kansas department of  
2 agriculture; establishing a farm-to-food bank program to expand the  
3 availability of Kansas agricultural food products for the state of Kansas'  
4 emergency food system.  
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6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. Sections 1 through ~~4~~ **5**, and amendments thereto, shall be  
8 known and may be cited as the Kansas farm-to-food bank program act.

9 Sec. 2. As used in the Kansas farm-to-food bank program act:

10 (a) "Agricultural entity" means a grower, producer or processor of  
11 Kansas agricultural food products.

12 (b) "Department" means the Kansas department of agriculture.

13 (c) "Food" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 65-656, and  
14 amendments thereto.

15 (d) "Food bank" means a public or charitable institution that  
16 maintains an established operation involving the provision of food to food  
17 pantries, soup kitchens, hunger relief centers or other feeding programs  
18 that, as an integral part of their normal activities, provide meals or food to  
19 needy persons.

20 (e) "Kansas agricultural food product" means food that has been  
21 grown, raised or produced in Kansas.

22 (f) "Kansas emergency food system" means food pantries, soup  
23 kitchens, hunger relief centers or other feeding programs that, as an  
24 integral part of their normal activities, provide meals or food to needy  
25 persons.

26 (g) "Program" means the Kansas farm-to-food bank program.

27 (h) "Program participant" means a food bank that receives Kansas  
28 agricultural food products under the Kansas farm-to-food bank program to  
29 be distributed to food pantries, soup kitchens, hunger relief centers or other  
30 feeding programs that provide meals or food to needy persons.

31 (i) "Secretary" means the secretary of agriculture.

32 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established within the Kansas department  
33 of agriculture a Kansas farm-to-food bank program to help expand the  
34 availability of nutritious, locally grown, raised or produced foods for the  
35 Kansas emergency food system.

1 (b) (1) The program shall acquire Kansas agricultural food products  
2 from agricultural entities or aggregators and distribute such products to the  
3 Kansas emergency food system.

4 (2) All Kansas agricultural food products distributed under the  
5 program shall be safe for human consumption and only be distributed  
6 within Kansas.

7 (c) The program may use funds to purchase Kansas agricultural food  
8 products or to facilitate the donation of Kansas agricultural food products,  
9 including, but not limited to, harvesting, packing and transportation.

10 (d) The program may distribute funds to food banks with the  
11 infrastructure to accept, store and distribute foods through the emergency  
12 food system in compliance with federal, state and local health and food  
13 safety requirements. Foods may be sourced directly from an agricultural  
14 entity or through Kansas-based aggregators if such foods meet program  
15 requirements.

16 (e) The program is subject to appropriation and shall dedicate not less  
17 than 75% of available funds to acquisition and distribution of Kansas  
18 agricultural food products.

19 Sec. 4. (a) (1) The secretary shall engage food banks to administer the  
20 program.

21 (2) Participating food banks shall collectively cover every county of  
22 the state and distribute food to food pantries and soup kitchens without  
23 duplication.

24 (3) Participating food banks shall pass a scored, third-party food  
25 safety audit and adhere to federal, state and local health and food safety  
26 regulations.

27 (4) Participating food banks may not assess fees on foods from the  
28 program to recipient distribution sites, programs, individuals or  
29 households.

30 (b) The secretary's duties in administering the program shall be:

31 (1) Building relationships with agricultural entities;

32 (2) assessing the needs of food-insecure Kansans;

33 (3) coordinating the acquisition of Kansas agricultural food products  
34 and distribution of such products to the Kansas emergency food system;  
35 and

36 (4) issuing an annual report that summarizes the program's activities  
37 from the prior calendar year.

38 (c) The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the  
39 provisions of this act, including, but not limited to:

40 (1) Eligible costs related to acquisition and distribution of food,  
41 including, but not limited to, harvesting, packing and transportation;

42 (2) health and safety requirements for program participants, farmers  
43 and transportation;

- 1 (3) food quality standards;
- 2 (4) contracting requirements and purchasing options; and
- 3 (5) data collection, evaluation and annual plan and reporting
- 4 requirements.

5 **Sec. 5. The provisions of the Kansas farm-to-food bank program**  
6 **act, sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto, shall expire on**  
7 **July 1, 2025.**

8 ~~Sec. 6.~~ This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
9 publication in the statute book.