

State Initiatives Supporting Healthier Food Retail: An Overview of the National Landscape

In recent years, leading public health authorities have recommended improving the retail food environment to make healthier foods more accessible among underserved populations. This is one among a portfolio of strategies that can support individuals and families in improving diet and may lead to preventing or reducing obesity.^{1,2} To implement this strategy, some states have enacted legislation to attract full-service grocery stores and supermarkets to underserved communities and to improve the quality of the foods that are sold at small corner stores (collectively referred to as “healthier food retail legislation” in this document). In addition to the health benefits of such initiatives, communities may realize economic benefits as well, including job creation and community-wide revitalization.³ Food retail outlets, such as grocery stores and supermarkets, can serve as “anchors” to other types of commercial development and may increase retail activity, employment rates, and property values in surrounding neighborhoods.⁴

This document provides public health practitioners, their partners, and policy makers with useful information about the rationale for and characteristics of healthier food retail legislation enacted in the last decade. Action steps that public health practitioners can use to support Healthier Food Retail (HFR) initiatives in their state are provided, as well as legislative data and other resources.



Rationale for Healthier Food Retail Access

Research suggests that people living near full-service grocery stores tend to have healthier diets, including higher intakes of fruits and vegetables⁵⁻⁷ and lower levels of obesity.^{5,8} However, residents living in low income, rural, and minority communities often have poor access to supermarkets and other types of vendors selling healthier foods.^{9,10} For residents in these areas, convenience stores and other small grocery or corner stores may be more common than supermarkets.^{9,11,12} These stores generally stock little or no produce^{13,14} because of limited space or equipment, and they may charge more for the healthier foods that are available.^{10,15-17} This lack of access to healthier foods may make it more difficult for neighborhood residents to maintain a nutritious diet that supports normal weight and optimal health.



National Healthy Food Financing Initiative

Interest in healthier food retail has extended beyond states to the national level. With bipartisan support, a resolution supporting a national fresh food financing initiative was introduced into the House of Representatives in December 2009. In his 2011 and 2012 budget proposals, President Obama proposed funding for a Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) that aims to increase access to healthier foods in underserved communities. Bipartisan legislation for HFFI was introduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate in November 2010.

The United States Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Health and Human Services, and Treasury are collaboratively working to address limited access to healthier foods through various grant opportunities and other resources. See “Creating Access to Healthy Affordable Food” at <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/> for more information.

Bill Coding and Analysis Procedures

To give health practitioners and partners more detailed information about healthier food retail legislation, a review and analysis of relevant bills was conducted. Bills enacted between January 2001 and January 2011 were primarily identified using the CDC's *Database of State Legislative and Regulatory Action to Prevent Obesity and Improve Nutrition and Physical Activity* and the National Conference of State Legislatures' *Healthy Community Design and Access to Healthy Food Legislative Database*.^{*} Every attempt was made to capture and locate all relevant bills; however, some bills may not have been identified by our methods.

The full text of the most recent version of each bill was retrieved from the state's legislative Web site (including the District of Columbia) and was analyzed using a bill coding tool to systematically capture and categorize key components of enacted legislation. The coding tool is available upon request. See Appendix for an explanation of key components coded for each bill. Two independent investigators coded the bills and when bill interpretation differed, the bill was discussed and consensus was reached. A bill was included in the analysis if it addressed any of the following actions: 1) building new or expanding existing food retail outlets; 2) renovating or upgrading equipment at existing food retail outlets; 3) stocking or promoting foods encouraged by the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans; or 4) examining healthier food access. Although farmers markets and produce stands are also viable venues for increasing access to healthier foods in areas, specifically fruits and vegetables, bills that dealt solely with farmers markets or stands were not considered.

*Three relevant healthier food retail bills that we included in the analysis were not captured by either legislative database. The specific bill numbers were identified through personal communication with a representative from the Reinvestment Fund (Personal communication, Patricia L. Smith, The Reinvestment Fund, May 21, 2009).

Findings from Healthier Food Retail Legislation in States

On the basis of our analysis of relevant bills, healthier food retail legislation in the last decade has either generally 1) established a legislative task force or advisory panel to study the issue of healthier food access in the state and to make recommendations to address it, or 2) provided financial assistance or other type(s) of incentives to attract healthier food retail outlets to underserved areas or to improve healthier food offerings in existing stores. Financial assistance may take the form of grants, loans, or tax incentives to assist with costs associated with establishing new food retail outlets, such as land acquisition, building and construction, or feasibility studies. Costs associated with improving healthier food offerings in existing retail outlets may include remodeling, refurbishing equipment, and the purchase of refrigeration to store fresh produce. A few states have enacted legislation that provides other types of incentives, such as technical assistance to small corner stores to assist with purchasing, stocking, or marketing fresh produce, or offers to waive existing zoning requirements to make it easier for grocery stores and supermarkets to locate in underserved areas.

As seen in the adjacent map, 12 states (including the District of Columbia) have enacted healthier food legislation since 2001, while an additional 7 states have introduced such legislation that either did not pass or is pending further action.

Table 1 provides details on the key characteristics included in states' healthier food retail legislation. The table reflects only those elements that are specified in the bill language and does not provide information on the program or initiative as it was implemented.

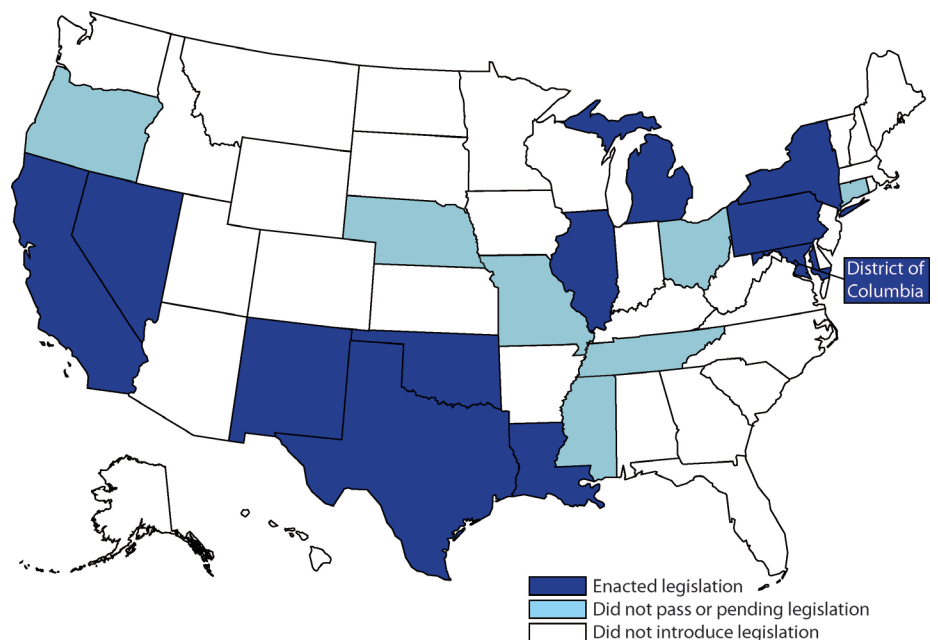


Table 1. Key Characteristics of Enacted State Healthier Food Retail Legislation, January 2001 to January 2011.

State	Bill/Law Number	Year of Introduction	Focus	Type of Retail	Financial and Other Types of Incentives	Type of Projects/Costs							Low-Income or Under Served Component	Report or Evaluation Required	Implementing Organization	
						Pre-development Costs	Land Acquisition/ Assembly	Store Building/ Construction	Store Renovation	Equipment and Furnishings	General Capital or Development Projects	Other or Not Specified				
California	AB 2384, Chapter 236	2006	Pilot Program	Small or Corner Store	Other = Technical Assistance					X			X	X	State Department of Health Services in Consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture	
California	AB 2726, Chapter 466	2008	Pilot Program	Small or Corner Store	Other = Technical Assistance					X			X	X	State Department of Health Services in Consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture	
District of Columbia	PR18-0070, Res# R18-0013	2009	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive											
District of Columbia	B18-0011, Act# A18-0001	2009	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive											
District of Columbia	B18-0044, Law# L18-0186	2009	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive											
District of Columbia	B18-0967, Law# L18-0353	2010	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Small or Corner Store, Farmers Market, Other = Small Food Retailer	Grants, Loans, Tax Incentive, Other = Other Financial Assistance, Technical Assistance, Zoning Flexibility			X	X	X	X		Other = Establishment of a Commercial Distribution System for Fresh Produce and Healthy Foods	X	X	Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Department of Small and Local Business Development
Illinois	SJR 72	2009	Task Force/ Advisory Committee										X			
Illinois	SB 1221, Public Act 96-0039	2009	Appropriations \$10,000,000	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Grants, Loans						X		X		Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity	
Louisiana	SR 112	2008	Task Force/ Advisory Committee										X	X		
Louisiana	SB 299, Act# 252	2009	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Farmers Market, Other = Mobile Markets, Food Cooperatives	Grants, Loans	X	X	X	X	X	X		Other = Workforce Training, Store Security	X	X	Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Maryland	HB 1135, Chapter 724	2010	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive								X			
Michigan	SB 294, Public Act 231	2007	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Other = Produce Market	Tax Incentive			X	X				X			
Michigan	SB 1597, Public Act 500	2008	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Other = Produce Market	Tax Incentive			X	X				X			

State	Bill/Law Number	Year of Introduction	Focus	Type of Retail	Financial and Other Types of Incentives	Type of Projects/Costs							Low-Income or Under served Component	Report or Evaluation Required	Implementing Organization
						Pre-development Costs	Land Acquisition/ Assembly	Store Building/ Construction	Store Renovation	Equipment and Furnishings	General Capital or Development Projects	Other or Not Specified			
Nevada	SB 229, Chapter 198	2005	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive			X	X				X		
Nevada	SB 352, Chapter 407	2007	Task Force/ Advisory Committee, Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Tax Incentive			X	X				X	X	
New Mexico	HJM 10	2007	Task Force/ Advisory Committee										X	X	
New York	S59-B, Chapter #59	2009	Program/ Initiative	Other = Food Market (for Profit, Nonprofit, Food Cooperative)	Grants, Loans	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	New York State Urban Development Corporation in Consultation with Department of Agriculture and Markets
Oklahoma	HB3015	2010	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Small or Corner Store	Loans										Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
Pennsylvania	HR 13	2003	Task Force/ Advisory Committee										X	X	
Pennsylvania	SB 1026 Act 22	2004	Program/ Initiative; Appropriations, \$150,000,000	Grocery Store/ Supermarket, Farmers Market	Grants, Loans	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		Common Wealth Financing Authority
Pennsylvania	HB 2579, Act 7A*	2004	Appropriations \$10,000,000	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Not Specified						X				Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania	HB 815, Act 1A*	2005	Appropriations \$10,000,000	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Not Specified						X				Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania	SB 2499, Act 2A*	2006	Appropriations \$10,000,000	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Not Specified						X				Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania	HB 2233, Act 115	2008	Program/ Initiative	Grocery Store/ Supermarket	Grants						X				Department of Community and Economic Development
Texas	SB 343	2009	Task Force/ Advisory Committee										X	X	

Appropriations included in this table represent only monies stipulated in the actual bill language. This does not represent an exhaustive search of budget bills and General Appropriations Acts.

Data Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Database of State Legislative and Regulatory Action to Prevent Obesity and Improve Nutrition and Physical Activity. Date accessed July 1, 2009; March 1, 2011. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DNPAleg/>
- National Conference of State Legislatures. Healthy Community Design and Access to Healthy Food Legislation Database. Date accessed August 11, 2009. Available at <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=13227>
- *Patricia L. Smith, The Reinvestment Fund, personal communication, May 21, 2009.

Action Steps

Public health practitioners can take part in a variety of activities to inform decisions about Healthier Food Retail (HFR) initiatives. For example, in states considering HFR legislation, decision makers may ask public health practitioners to provide state specific data on increasing healthier foods in underserved areas or to assess the health impact of proposed policy solutions. It is important to remember that each state has different laws and agency-based rules that dictate the role state employees can take in the policy process. Before beginning work on public health policy issues, state public health practitioners should understand the legal parameters that govern their activities. It should also be noted that Federal funds cannot be used for lobbying, as defined by any activities that are designed to influence action in regard to a particular piece of pending legislation. Practitioners may decide to consult their health department's office of general council while working on HFR policy initiatives.

The action steps presented below are relevant to health practitioners working to inform initiatives that seek to increase healthier food and beverage options in underserved communities. The action steps closely align with the Health Policy and Environmental Change (HPEC) core competencies identified by the Directors of Health Promotion and Education.¹⁸ The HPEC model describes how health practitioners can effectively work to support policy and environmental approaches to address critical public health issues.

To inform statewide healthier food retail initiatives, public health practitioners and their partners can:

Collect, Analyze, and Present Data

- **Identify communities in your state that lack adequate access to food retail venues that routinely stock and sell affordable healthier food and beverage options.** Activities may include mapping areas of the state that are underserved for HFR access or conducting assessments at the community-level on in-store availability, cost, and quality of healthier foods. Often this work can be done with partners in city or county planning offices, universities, or departments of agriculture, particularly those with expertise in Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. To assist with this effort, see CDC's Healthier Food Retail: Beginning the Assessment Process in Your State or Community at <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/HFRassessment.pdf>.
- **Prepare reports, fact sheets, and other materials that include health data that demonstrate the need to improve the food environment and increase access to healthier food in the state.** This may be done in response to specific requests from decision makers (e.g., members of a legislative task force, committee staffers, or agency directors) who are responsible for studying the issue or recommending policy solutions to address it. Messaging materials also can be developed to educate the public on the benefits of HFR initiatives.
- **Collect data that illustrates the co-benefits of HFR initiatives to multiple partners, include cost benefit data that will be useful to decision makers.** Identify potential partners in other state agencies that may benefit from HFR initiatives (e.g., the State Redevelopment Agency or Department of Agriculture). Collect data that will demonstrate public health impact, economic development through job creation or revenue generation, and community revitalization.
- **When invited, present health data or information at committee hearings and other venues.**
- **Consult subject matter experts (SMEs) with experience in HFR research and policy development.** SMEs, such as university or national organization representatives who have been working on HFR initiatives, can assist with the initial assessment of underserved areas in your state that will most benefit from HFR policy initiatives. SMEs can facilitate the collection of relevant data that is important to key partners, stakeholders, and decision makers.

Work with Partners

- **Convene key stakeholders and partner groups, or become a member of an existing coalition assessing HFR issues in your state.**
- **Collaborate with non-traditional partners or partners outside of public health, such as agriculture, the grocery industry, transportation, state planning, economic development, education, civil rights, faith, and youth advocacy.** Consider common or overlapping goals and determine how healthier food retail policies can help address them.
- **If HFR legislation is enacted, work with the implementing agency to ensure that public health goals are addressed.** This could include helping to develop guidelines for the program or initiative created by legislation. This may also include monitoring the implementation of the legislation.

Develop or Suggest Strategies

- **Consider a variety of HFR strategies that are appropriate to the current political climate of your state.** For example, consider low-to-no cost strategies, such as identifying or providing support to locally based HFR initiatives. By evaluating the outcomes of local HFR efforts, you may be able to identify “lessons learned” and inform statewide initiatives. Or, consider convening an internal advisory group to study the issue and publish recommendations in a formal report.
- **Determine if existing state policies or programs have similar or overlapping goals with HFR initiatives.** In your state, there may be existing policies or programs that could be expanded to include public health goals and serve to increase access to healthier foods. For example, some states have amended property tax exemptions specified in existing Economic Development and Rehabilitation programs to include qualified grocery stores and incentivize their development. This type of strategy may present fewer obstacles and take less time than establishing new HFR initiatives.
- **Develop education and communication strategies to help frame key messages for decision makers and the public about HFR initiatives.**

Evaluate HFR Initiatives

- **Evaluate the public health impacts of HFR legislation and initiatives.** The evaluation of policy initiatives is critical for building the evidence base in obesity prevention. Policy evaluation can examine how the legislation was established (process evaluation); how it is being implemented (e.g. changes to the environment including changes in physical access and availability of healthier foods [outcome evaluation]); and what the public health impact is (e.g. behavior changes in purchasing and consumption [impact evaluation]).

Considerations

The legislative analyses, action steps, and resources included in this report are intended to assist public health practitioners in advancing healthier food retail initiatives and improving the nutrition environment in their state or communities. Although the focus of this document is on the role of state legislation in providing access to healthier food retail in underserved communities, there are other policy mechanisms that can be used as well, such as executive orders and agency based rules and regulations. When working on policy initiatives, consider the 8 essential elements for strong obesity prevention policy recommended by Public Health Law and Policy/National Policy and Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity.¹⁹ These are:

- It is a policy, not a program.
- It is legally feasible.
- It is financially feasible.
- Its implementation is clear and feasible.
- It accounts for disparities.
- It is data and context driven.
- It changes the conversation.
- It is part of a bigger plan.¹⁹



Before beginning work in this arena, it is important for public health officials to recognize the context in which public health strategies can best be used in their state. A few states have implemented state-wide healthier food retail initiatives through non-legislative mechanisms. The *New Jersey Food Access Initiative*²⁰ and the *California FreshWorks Fund Initiative*²¹ are examples of programs that increase access to healthier foods in underserved areas and include representatives from nonprofit, government, and private sectors.

State Example: Louisiana

In 2008, the Louisiana State Senate passed Resolution 112 (SR 112, Duplessis, Regular Session, 2008) that created a task force called the **Healthy Food Retail Study Group**. The Study Group was responsible for investigating the lack of access to healthier foods in rural and urban communities across Louisiana; developing recommendations to address the problem; and submitting a formal report of its findings to the State Legislature.²² A state senator provided leadership for the legislation as well as staff resources for the work of the Study Group. The Healthy Food Retail Study Group had diverse membership from both public and private sectors, with expertise in economic and agricultural development, grocery retail, public health, finance, and community food security. The Study Group was coordinated by staff of the Commerce Committee of the Louisiana State Senate and the Prevention Research Center at Tulane University. In addition, national experts from The Food Trust and The Reinvestment Fund collaborated with the Study Group. They brought their experience from administering the Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) in Pennsylvania, where they developed a comprehensive approach to increasing availability of healthier food in the state. This FFFI framework is currently being replicated in several states.²³



The primary recommendation to the legislature was to establish a statewide financing program that provides grants and loans to supermarkets, grocery stores, farmers markets, and other food retail outlets selling healthier foods in underserved communities. The report suggested modeling the proposed financing program after the successful FFFI, and included specific recommendations for program implementation. The Study Group's recommendations are available in the *Report of the Healthy Food Retail Study Group: Recommendations for a Louisiana Healthy Food Retail Financing Program* at http://prc.tulane.edu/uploads/Report_Healthy_Food_Retail_Study_Group_final_27Feb2009.pdf.

After the submission of the report and recommendations to the Louisiana State Senate, a second bill was passed in 2009 titled, **The Healthy Food Retail Act** (SB 299, Act 252, Duplessis, August 15, 2009). The Act authorized a statewide financing program to attract healthier food retail venues to underserved neighborhoods in Louisiana. The program would provide grants and loans to various types of projects that would increase access to healthier foods, including new construction of supermarkets, store renovations, farmers markets, and mobile markets. Although the Act was adopted, as of January 2011, no funds have been appropriated to the financing program.

A similar process was undertaken at the local level. In May 2007, the New Orleans City Council passed a resolution creating a Food Policy Advisory Committee to develop recommendations to address access to fresh food in New Orleans. One of the primary recommendations was the creation of a fresh food retailing program that would provide grants and loans to food retail projects in underserved areas.²⁴ The city created the Fresh Food Retailers Initiative program which provides loans to supermarkets, grocery stores, and other fresh food retailers. The city is making \$7 million available in Disaster Community Development Block Grant money, to be matched 1 for 1 by a private financing organization, for a total of \$14 million.²⁵

Legislative Data Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Database of State Legislative and Regulatory Action to Prevent Obesity and Improve Nutrition and Physical Activity*. Provides a searchable database for state legislation and regulatory actions related to obesity, nutrition, and physical activity. Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DNPAleg/>.

National Conference of State Legislatures. *Healthy Community Design and Access to Healthy Food Legislation Database*. Provides a searchable database for state legislation related to access to healthy foods. Available at <http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=13227>.

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Other Resources:

Healthier Food Retail: Beginning the Assessment Process in Your State or Community. Provides public health practitioners with an overview of how to better understand their current healthier food retail landscape and assess differences in accessibility to healthier foods. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/solutions.html>.

Children's Food Environment State Indicator Report, 2011. Highlights selected behaviors, environments, and policies that affect childhood obesity through support of healthier eating. Available at <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/downloads/ChildrensFoodEnvironment.pdf>.

State Indicator Report on Fruits and Vegetables, 2009. Highlights areas in which communities and schools can be improved to increase access, availability, and affordability of fruits and vegetables, and provides information for each state on consumption of fruits and vegetables. Available at http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/health_professionals/staterport.html.

USDA's Food Desert Locator. Presents a spatial overview of where food desert census tracts are located, provides selected population characteristics of the census tracts, and offers downloadable data. Available at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/fooddesert/>.

USDA's Food Desert Web Page. Provides an overview of food deserts, describes federal efforts at addressing them, offers tools on identification of food deserts, and provides resources on the topic. Available at <http://apps.ams.usda.gov/fooddeserts/>.

Public Health Solutions through Changes in Policies, Systems, and the Built Environment: Specialized Competencies for the Public Health Workforce. This report from the Directors of Health Promotion and Education identifies competencies for public health professionals that are needed to change policies, systems and built environments. Available at http://www.dhpe.org/HPEC_Comp_Phase_Final.pdf.

The Food Trust Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative. Describes a grant and loan program to encourage supermarket development in underserved neighborhoods throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Available at <http://www.thefoodtrust.org/php/programs/fffi.php>.

Policy Link Improving Access to Healthy Food. This web page describes the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative and provides other resources on healthier food retail. Available at <http://www.policylink.org/ImprovingAccessToHealthyFood>.

Equitable Development Toolkit: Healthy Food Retailing. Focuses on increasing access to retail outlets that sell nutritious, affordable food in underserved communities. Available at http://www.policylink.org/site/c.lkIXLbMNJrE/b.5137405/k.6042/Healthy_Food_Retailing.htm.

Reversing the Trend in Childhood Obesity: Policies to Promote Healthy Kids and Communities. This report summarizes enacted legislation in the topic areas of Healthy Community Design and Access to Healthy Food, as well as Healthy Eating and Physical Activity. Available at <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20110425reversingthetrendinchildhoodobesity.pdf>.

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Appendix: Explanation of Healthy Food Retail Legislation Coding

Category	Explanation of Bill Coding
Focus	<p>The overarching focus or action of the bill as related to healthier food retail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force/Advisory Committee * – The bill establishes a task force, advisory committee, or other official committee; or directs the activities of such bodies. • Appropriations** – The bill authorizes the expenditure of money and denotes the dollar amount appropriated. • Program or Initiative – The bill establishes a program or initiative, including tax incentives. • Pilot Program – The bill establishes an activity planned as a test or trial. <p><i>* For Task Force/Advisory Committee bills, only the categories “Low-income or Underserved Component” and “Report or Evaluation Required” were coded.</i></p> <p><i>** Appropriations included in this table represent only monies stipulated in the actual bill language. This does not represent an exhaustive search of budget bills and General Appropriations Acts.</i></p>
Type of Retail	<p>Type of retail establishment specifically listed in the bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grocery/Supermarket – “Grocery,” “supermarket,” “market” or “retail” is specified in bill text. • Small or Corner store – “Small grocery,” “small,” “corner,” or “convenience” store is specified in bill text. • Farmers Markets – “Farmers Markets” is specified in bill text. • Other – Other types of retail establishments is specified in bill text.
Financing or Economic Incentive Mechanism	<p>The mechanism(s) specified in the bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant – “Grant” is used in text. • Loan – “Loan” is used in the text. • Tax incentives – A mechanism that uses taxes to encourage people to take an action, such as property tax exemptions or tax abatements. • Other – Other types of incentives are specified in bill text, may include technical assistance and zoning flexibility. • Not Specified
Type of Projects/ Costs	<p>The type of project(s)/cost(s) eligible, allowed, or specified in bill text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-development Costs – Activities that happen before development or construction of a project; may include feasibility studies, market studies, and appraisals. • Land Acquisition/Assembly – Buying or acquiring land for building. • Store Building/Construction – Building or construction of new stores or expansion of existing stores. • Store Renovation – Improving the infrastructure of stores. • Equipment and Furnishings – Purchasing or upgrading equipment or furnishings. • General Capital or Development Projects – “Capital” or “development” is listed in the text. In addition, this category was chosen when capital or development costs or projects were listed in bill text without further specification of allowable costs or projects. • Other – Other eligible or allowed project(s)/cost(s) specified in bill text. • Not Specified
Low-Income or Underserved Component	<p>The bill mentions a focus on or interest in low-income or underserved populations or economically depressed areas/communities. This may include, but is not limited to, connections to the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, or other nutrition assistance programs.</p>
Report or Evaluation Required	<p>The bill specifies that a report or evaluation is required of the administering agency or the grantees.</p>
Implementing Organization	<p>If specified in the text, the name of the lead agency or department that is authorized to administer or oversee implementation.</p>