

AGRICULTURAL AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost

Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates a requirement for the Department of Agriculture and Food to study issues related to local food.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the Department of Agriculture and Food (the department) to study the barriers and gaps related to increasing the availability of local food in the state; and
- ▶ requires the department to report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and the Environment Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

4-2-1001, Utah Code Annotated 1953

4-2-1002, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:



28 Section 1. Section **4-2-1001** is enacted to read:

29 **Part 10. Local Food Study**

30 **4-2-1001. Definitions.**

31 (1) "Committee" means the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim
32 Committee.

33 (2) "Local food" means an agricultural product that is:

34 (a) produced, processed, and distributed for sale or consumption within the state; and

35 (b) sold to an end consumer within the state.

36 Section 2. Section **4-2-1002** is enacted to read:

37 **4-2-1002. Local food study.**

38 (1) (a) The department shall conduct a study on the barriers and gaps related to
39 increasing the availability of local food in the state, including issues related to:

40 (i) the intra-state food supply chain;

41 (ii) alternative and specialty crop production; and

42 (iii) the agricultural workforce.

43 (b) The department shall coordinate with stakeholders to conduct the study described in
44 Subsection (1)(a).

45 (2) The study described in Subsection (1) shall:

46 (a) compare the production value of alternative crop types and the economic impact to
47 the state and to producers of producing the alternative crop types;

48 (b) research the natural resource, infrastructure, and financial implications associated
49 with changing from animal-feed crops to direct-to-consumer crops;

50 (c) research the barriers to entry associated with careers in agriculture by reviewing:

51 (i) current challenges;

52 (ii) available resources;

53 (iii) programs in other states that support individuals interested in pursuing careers in
54 agriculture;

55 (iv) opportunities for new agricultural producers to use the expertise of existing
56 agricultural producers; and

57 (v) the potential for creating a small farm incubator program;

58 (d) research gaps in the state's food supply chain with respect to local food, including:

- 59 (i) aggregation;
- 60 (ii) distribution;
- 61 (iii) storage;
- 62 (iv) refrigeration; and
- 63 (v) processing; and
- 64 (e) propose potential funding solutions to address the issues identified by the
- 65 department's research under Subsection (2)(d), including recommendations for:
- 66 (i) current state and federal money available;
- 67 (ii) potential grant programs; and
- 68 (iii) coordinating funding from state and federal sources.
- 69 (3) (a) The department shall report to the committee at or before the committee's
- 70 October 2024 interim meeting.
- 71 (b) The report described in Subsection (3)(a) shall include:
- 72 (i) research findings related to each study item; and
- 73 (ii) policy solutions related to each study item.
- 74 (c) The report described in Subsection (3)(a) may include recommendations for
- 75 legislation and legislative appropriations.
- 76 (4) If the committee recommends legislative action based on the department's report
- 77 and recommendations described in Subsection (3), the committee shall prepare legislation for
- 78 consideration by the Legislature in the 2025 General Session.
- 79 Section 3. **Effective date.**
- 80 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.