



PLEASE SUPPORT SB 10-106
Concerning the Creation of a Food Systems Advisory Council
Sponsors: Senator Bacon & Representative Looper

Bill Summary

This state sanctioned Council will work across sectors—engaging with state and local government, agriculture, business, and non-profit organizations—to collaboratively establish platforms for coordinated action to advance food policy recommendations that lead to the development of a robust, resilient food system with longevity.

Why is a State Sanctioned Food Systems Advisory Council Needed?

Because of the complexity of our food system, there isn't one single place where one might address the wide range of "farm to table" items that make up our food system; there isn't a federal or state "Department of Food." Instead, food policy work is spread across numerous governmental departments and functions.

- Human service departments work to distribute nutrition benefits such as food stamps to eligible needy households;
- Health departments work to increase access to healthier eating through the promotion of WIC and Senior Nutrition programs and provide state-wide nutritional education programs;
- School districts are critical food and nutrition access points for many of our children, and are able to provide food education to promote healthy eating behaviors;
- Economic development officials are able to provide incentives to developers to locate supermarkets in underserved areas, assist with the establishment of food processing facilities and other infrastructure, and generally account for the contribution that food and farming make to their local or state economies; and
- City and state planning departments can impact transportation for those who depend on it to reach a supermarket, as well as promote or deter sprawl which affects farmland.

While this kind of segmentation leads to numerous dysfunctions, it also offers enormous opportunities to pursue coordinated and comprehensive food policies once an effort is made to connect the food system stakeholders.

Main Provisions of the Bill

- Establishment of a 17-member food systems advisory council
- Identification and utilization of existing food system research, studies and best practices
- Development of food system recommendations that state and local governments, businesses, agriculture, and consumers can take to build robust, resilient food system economies; and
- Development of food system recommendations regarding hunger and food access.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE-WIDE FOOD SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

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