

THIS ISSUE

Food and Hunger in Florida -
Summary of State bills being
considered in the 2023 session



Bite-Sized News

APRIL 5, 2023

Important Facts and Resources

Members of the Florida state congress aren't the only ones with food on the mind this year. U.S Congress will update and renew the Farm Bill this fall and will define national policy on nutrition assistance and farmer safety net policies. Learn more about the Farm Bill using the links below:

[Farm Bill 2023](#)

[What is the Farm Bill? - Food and Environment Reporting Network \(*2018\)](#)

Did you know you can easily access district maps, current bills, and representative information for the Florida House of Representatives and Senate? Check out the links below:

[List of House Representatives](#)

[Representative District Map](#)

[List of Bills for the 2023 Session](#)

[Florida Senate Members](#)

[Senate District Map](#)

2023 Florida State Bills Impacting Food Systems, Health, and Community Wellness

Food Insecurity and Nutrition Bills

Senate Bill 814 (SM 814) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program/Study Request – An action to urge the Congress of the US to prohibit the use of SNAP assistance benefits to be used to purchase soft drinks. Some argue this puts unfair restrictions on what groceries people purchase. A report from the National Institutes of Health indicated that there is evidence that regular consumption of soft drinks and sugar sweetened beverages causes unhealthy weight gain. In 2016, a USDA study found that 9.3% of the average SNAP household's grocery bill is spent on sweetened beverages. That figure is 7.1% for non-SNAP households.

Senate Bill 1172 (SB 1172) Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program – A pilot program to study food insecurity on college campuses. The three college campuses with the highest number of Pell Grant eligible students will be selected as the targets of the study. A Hope Survey from Temple University in 2020 found that nearly 30% of students at 4-year universities reported experiencing food insecurity in the previous 30-days.

Senate Bill 1376 (SB 1376) School Nutrition Program Requirements – Requires a school district to offer plant based, kosher, and halal meal options for students eligible for the free or reduced price meals or snacks under the National School Lunch Program or other programs.

Senate Bill 778 (SB 778) Food Insecure Areas – A bill authorizing local governments to enact land development regulations to permit land use to small footprint grocery stores in food insecure areas. "Small Footprint" means less than \$1 million in annual gross sales and derives 20% of its gross receipts from sale of nutrient dense foods.

Senate Bill 674 (SB 674) Food Recovery – An incentive program to encourage agricultural companies to sell fresh food products to food recovery entities at a discount. Food recovery entities are nonprofit association engaged in food recovery and distribution that has been in operation in the state for at least 10 years and has received a minimum of 10 million pounds of perishable fresh food products annually for at least 3 years.





Rural Agriculture Bills

Senate Bill 1628 (SB 1628) Financial Assistance for Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAOs) – An amendment to an existing act relating to financial assistance for rural areas of opportunity. An agency agreement that provides state or federal financial assistance to a county or municipal entity within a rural area of opportunity can't require the entity to expend those funds in order to be reimbursed. RAOs are rural areas affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters._

Senate Bill 1184 (SB 1184) Agricultural Lands – Bill that changes special assessment just value threshold to \$350k from \$10K and authorizes construction of housing for migrant farmworkers and provides tax credits for that housing. Prohibits local governments from adopting land use or zoning restrictions that would impact agricultural classifications.

Senate Bill 422 (SB 422) Fair Repair of Agricultural Equipment – An agricultural equipment repair act mandating manufacturers of ag equipment make repair information available to independent repair providers and owners. According to a Food Tank article, having to hire an outside contractor can cost up to \$150/hour and having to replace equipment (that is no longer supported by manufacturers) can cost farmers up to \$600K.

Community Health, Wellness, and Development Bills

Senate Bill 988 (SB 988) Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors – Bill to provide Medicaid coverage for continuous glucose monitors. Requires medical check-ups every 6 months for the first 18-months, then once every 12-months after that to ensure monitors are helping manage recipients' diabetes. A person with diabetes spends on average \$4,882/year on treatment and supplies. According to GoodRx, more than 80% of that is spent on supplies (including continuous glucose monitors among other things).

Senate Bill 1062 (SB 1062) Health Care Benefit Coverage for Members of Nonprofit Organizations and Agricultural Cooperative Associations – Bill to allow Non-profits and Agricultural Cooperative Associations to provide health care benefit options for their members. Organizations to use reinsurance agreements with an insurer for them to provide risk coverage. (Not typical Insurance)

Senate Bill 1268 (SB 1268) Urban Agriculture Pilot Projects – An amendment to the Urban Agriculture Pilot projects that redefines "Urban Agriculture" to include commercial agricultural uses. Original project implemented in 2021, focused on funding projects implemented by local governments, school boards and non-profit orgs.

Senate Bill 1336 (SB 1336) Disposal of Food Waste Materials Study – A directive to the Dept of Environmental Protection to study the disposal of food waste. Also, determining impact of food waste in landfills and solid waste facilities and what composting, anaerobic digestion, or other recycling facilities exist. Recommendations may include benefits of alternative food disposal methods. According to the World Economic Forum, food waste is the number one material in US landfills making up 24% of all municipal solid waste.