



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 4 May 2018

SUBJECT: Food Deserts (Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2018)—Information Presentation

Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2018, directs the Commission to study the potential, overall effects of creating a grant and loan program administered by the department of economic and community development to encourage the financing and development of food desert relief enterprises that sell fresh food in low-income, underserved areas of this state. The study shall include the benefits and costs of creating a special reserve fund in the state treasury to be known as the "Fresh Food Financing Fund" into which the revenue generated from six-hundred twenty-five ten thousandths percent (.0625%) of the rate of tax imposed by Section 67-6-228(a) on retail sales of sugar-sweetened beverages is deposited for the sole use by the department to fund grants and loans awarded under the program.

The Act also requires the Commission to report its conclusions to the State and Local Government Committee of the Senate, as well as the State Government Committee and the Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives, no later than February 1, 2019.

Speaking before the Commission today on this topic is Jackie Yenerall, Population Health Economist, Department of Health—Office of Health Policy.