

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Governor and Legislature to establish programs to help eliminate food deserts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Governor and Legislature to
2 establish programs to help eliminate food deserts.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, There are certain areas of the State, known as "food
5 deserts," which are areas where residents are unable to obtain
6 nutritious foods; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Food deserts lack fresh foods, such as fresh meats, fruits,
8 and vegetables; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Instead, available foods are often processed and high in
10 sugar and fats, which can contribute to a variety of health issues;
11 and
12 **WHEREAS**, Food deserts and exist in rural and urban areas and tend to
13 be inhabited by low-income residents with reduced mobility; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Food deserts develop in the absence of supermarkets and
15 grocery stores; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Grocery stores and supermarkets offer opportunities to
17 purchase affordable, fresh, and nutritious food and also create local
18 jobs; and
19 **WHEREAS**, The establishment of incentives to grocery stores and
20 supermarkets to open locations in food deserts may be a path by
21 which to create jobs and ensure residents of food deserts are
22 provided the ability to purchase nutritious foods; and
23 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper to respectfully urge the
24 Governor and the Legislature to work together to create programs
25 to incentivize the establishment of grocery stores and supermarkets
26 in food deserts; now, therefore,

27
28 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*
29

30 1. This House respectfully urges the Governor and the
31 Legislature to work together to create programs to incentivize the
32 establishment of grocery stores and supermarkets in food deserts.
33

34 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State
35 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor
36 and to each member of the Legislature.
37

38
39 **STATEMENT**
40

41 This resolution urges the Governor and Legislature to establish
42 programs to help eliminate food deserts.

43 There are certain areas of the State, known as "food deserts,"
44 which are areas where residents are unable to obtain nutritious
45 foods. Food deserts lack fresh foods, such as fresh meats, fruits,
46 and vegetables. Instead, available foods are often processed and
47 high in sugar and fats, which can contribute to a variety of health

1 issues. Food deserts exist in rural and urban areas and tend to
2 be inhabited by low-income residents with reduced mobility.

3 Food deserts develop in the absence of supermarkets and grocery
4 stores. Grocery stores and supermarkets offer opportunities to
5 purchase affordable, fresh, and nutritious food and also create local
6 jobs. The establishment of incentives to grocery stores and
7 supermarkets to open locations in food deserts may be a path by
8 which to create jobs and ensure residents of food deserts are
9 provided the ability to purchase nutritious foods.

10 The resolution urges the Governor and the Legislature to work
11 together to create programs to incentivize the establishment of
12 grocery stores and supermarkets in food deserts.