

By Senator Torres

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Farm-to-Plate Investment Plan;
3 creating s. 570.237, F.S.; requiring the Department of
4 Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop a plan
5 with recommendations for legislative action to
6 stabilize and revitalize farm and food businesses in
7 the state; providing plan requirements; authorizing
8 the department to take certain actions in developing
9 the plan; requiring the department to submit the plan
10 to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date;
11 providing an effective date.

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13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Section 570.237, Florida Statutes, is created to
16 read:

17 570.237 Farm-to-Plate Investment Plan.—

18 (1) The department shall develop a Farm-to-Plate Investment
19 Plan with recommendations for legislative action to stabilize
20 and revitalize farm and food businesses in the state.

21 (2) At a minimum, the plan must include strategies to:

22 (a) Increase the economic output, employment, and
23 establishment of farm and food businesses.

24 (b) Increase demand for food grown in the state.

25 (c) Diversify the state's agricultural production
26 portfolio; increase the economic viability of farm and food
27 businesses; and provide such businesses with equitable access to
28 capital and infrastructure for production, processing,
29 aggregation, and distribution.

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30 (d) Provide farm and food jobs or careers with livable
31 wages; safe, healthy, and supportive workplace conditions; and
32 access to health care and other benefits.

33 (e) Provide accessible and equitable opportunities to gain
34 knowledge and skills for farm and food jobs or careers.

35 (f) Assist farm and food businesses in increasing carbon
36 sequestration; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and adapting
37 to climate changes due to global warming, including, but not
38 limited to, floods, droughts, natural disasters, and serious
39 pest and disease threats.

40 (g) Support, compensate, and recognize farm stewardship
41 that increases ecological diversity, improves soil and water
42 quality, and makes positive contributions to the environment and
43 public good.

44 (h) Ensure that agricultural land remains in productive
45 agricultural use and access to such land is more affordable and
46 equitable.

47 (i) Require land use planning decisions to maintain and
48 promote strong and viable farm and food businesses.

49 (j) Ensure that edible food, food scraps, and other food
50 residuals are not treated or disposed of as waste.

51 (k) Increase the amount of food grown in the state that
52 meets the dietary and cultural needs of people in the state.

53 (l) Expand financial resources for people in the state to
54 access food grown in the state, including programs that provide
55 support for purchasing food.

56 (m) Increase the number of locations where food grown in
57 the state is sold, served, or provided.

58 (n) Ensure the food security of the state in order to

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59 provide adequate and accessible healthy food grown in the state
60 during a state of emergency, including, but not limited to,
61 climate-related natural disasters.

62 (o) Support farm and food businesses and stakeholders in
63 prioritizing racial equity.

64 (p) Support existing farm-to-school programs to increase
65 the purchase of food grown in the state, with an emphasis on the
66 procurement of nutrient-dense food.

67 (q) Market and promote food grown in the state within and
68 outside the state.

69 (3) In developing the plan, the department may:

70 (a) Consult and contract with public and private entities.

71 (b) Hire and assign staff.

72 (c) Seek and accept funds from public and private entities.

73 (d) Take any other actions necessary for developing the
74 plan.

75 (4) By October 1, 2024, the department shall submit the
76 plan with recommendations for legislative action to the
77 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
78 House of Representatives.

79 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.