ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 230

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 1, 2021

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT
District 31 (Hudson)
Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.
District 7 (Burlington)
Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Governor and Legislature to establish programs to help eliminate food deserts.

WHEREAS, There are certain areas of the State, known as "food deserts," which are areas where residents are unable to obtain nutritious foods; and

WHEREAS, Food deserts lack fresh foods, such as fresh meats, fruits, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, Instead, available foods are often processed and high in sugar and fats, which can contribute to a variety of health issues; and

WHEREAS, Food deserts and exist in rural and urban areas and tend to be inhabited by low-income residents with reduced mobility; and

WHEREAS, Food deserts develop in the absence of supermarkets and grocery stores; and

WHEREAS, Grocery stores and supermarkets offer opportunities to purchase affordable, fresh, and nutritious food and also create local jobs; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of incentives to grocery stores and supermarkets to open locations in food deserts may be a path by which to create jobs and ensure residents of food deserts are provided the ability to purchase nutritious foods; and

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper to respectfully urge the Governor and the Legislature to work together to create programs to incentivize the establishment of grocery stores and supermarkets in food deserts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Governor and to each member of the Legislature.

STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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