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**SENATE BILL 6309**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Lovelett, Wagoner, Nguyen, Walsh, Das, Salomon, Randall, Billig, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Saldaña, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/15/20. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to nutritious food; amending  
2 RCW 43.70.700; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that our state has a  
5 robust agricultural system, with Washington farmers producing diverse  
6 foods available at regional markets throughout the state. The  
7 legislature further finds that one in six Washington children do not  
8 know where their next meal will come from and that promoting access  
9 to fresh foods supports Washington farmers as well as food-insecure  
10 families. Hunger for families with children continues to be a  
11 significant issue across our state and a growing concern. Hunger and  
12 unhealthy diets also impact the health and development of children  
13 and a child's ability to learn. Therefore, the legislature intends to  
14 expand access to nutritious foods by increasing the fruit and  
15 vegetable benefit for participants in the women, infant, and children  
16 farmers market nutrition program.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.70.700 and 2008 c 215 s 8 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The department shall adopt rules authorizing retail operation  
20 farms stores, owned and operated by a farmer and colocated with a

1 site of agricultural production, to participate in the women, infant,  
2 and children farmers market nutrition program to provide locally  
3 grown, nutritious, unprepared fruits and vegetables to eligible  
4 program participants.

5 (2) Such rules must meet the provisions of 7 C.F.R. part 3016,  
6 uniform administrative requirements for grants and cooperative  
7 agreements to state and local governments, as it existed on June 12,  
8 2008, or such subsequent date as may be provided by the department by  
9 rule, consistent with the purposes of this section.

10 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
11 specific purpose, the department shall distribute a fruit and  
12 vegetable benefit of no less than thirty-two dollars per summer  
13 farmers market season to each eligible participant in the women,  
14 infant, and children farmers market nutrition program. To the extent  
15 that federal funds are available, federal funds must be used to pay  
16 for the benefit.

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