
SENATE BILL 5214

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Shewmake, Harris, Wellman, Kauffman, Stanford, Chapman, Riccelli, and Saldaña

Prefiled 01/09/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to mobile market programs; adding a new section
2 to chapter 43.70 RCW; creating a new section; providing an effective
3 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that small local
6 farmers play a crucial role in providing communities with access to
7 fresh, healthy foods. Farmers markets provide a place for local
8 farmers to sell their products, encouraging consumption of fresh
9 products in the communities in which they were grown.

10 The legislature recognizes that some households may live in rural
11 areas or food deserts where access to farmers markets and fresh food
12 is limited. There are a number of programs to help increase access to
13 fresh, healthy foods for low-income communities. The farmers market
14 nutrition program was established by congress in 1992 to provide
15 fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to women, infants, and
16 children program participants and to expand the awareness, use of,
17 and sales at farmers markets which benefits both program participants
18 and local farmers. Similarly, the senior farmers market nutrition
19 program provides low-income seniors with access to locally grown
20 fruits and vegetables. Participants in both programs commonly use
21 their food benefit at farmers markets, farms, and roadside stands.

1 The legislature further recognizes that other states including
2 Pennsylvania and Virginia also allow mobile market providers to
3 accept both women, infants, and children and senior farmers market
4 nutrition program benefits. This provides greater nutritional support
5 to households that may live in a rural area, an area without access
6 to a farmers market, or in a food desert. In these states, eligible
7 low-income households are still able to access fresh, healthy foods
8 which not only benefits that household, but benefits the local
9 farmers as well.

10 It is hereby the intent of the legislature to provide
11 participants of both the women, infants, and children and senior
12 farmers market nutrition programs access to fresh, healthy food
13 through nonprofit mobile markets to promote access to fresh, healthy
14 food regardless of a household's proximity to a farmers market.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The mobile market program is established in the department
18 with the goals of providing increased nutrition access to
19 participants of the women, infant, and children and senior farmers
20 market nutrition program, while also supporting local farmers.

21 (2) The mobile market program is available to participants of the
22 women, infant, and children and senior farmers market nutrition
23 programs so long as funding is made available to the department
24 through the United States department of agriculture.

25 (3) The department shall define the mobile market program through
26 rule making. At a minimum, the definition must require mobile market
27 programs to be operated by a nonprofit organization and serve an area
28 that does not have a farmers market.

29 (4) The department shall conduct rule making consistent with this
30 section to establish the mobile market program.

31 (5) If the department deems it necessary to file a waiver, the
32 department shall file a waiver with the United States department of
33 agriculture to allow mobile market programs to accept both women,
34 infants, and children and senior farmers market nutrition program
35 benefits.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
37 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of

1 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
2 effect May 1, 2025.

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