



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 6 September 2018

SUBJECT: Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2018 (Food Deserts)—Update

Public Chapter 795, Acts of 2018, directs the Commission to study the effects of creating a grant and loan program administered by the state to encourage the financing and development of retailers that sell fresh food in low-income, underserved areas of the state. At its May 2018 meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft research plan for the study and heard a presentation from Dr. Jackie Yenerall, Population Health Economist with the Tennessee Department of Health. This update provides preliminary information on

- past legislation in Tennessee that would have implemented programs for financing the development of food retailers in food deserts,
- programs already implemented in other states for financing the development of food retailers in food deserts,
- private sector initiatives for financing the development of food retailers in food deserts, and
- other food-desert relief programs.

The Act directs the Commission to report the results of its study, including any recommendations, to the General Assembly by February 1, 2019.