



# HOUSE BILL 1154: Expand the FarmSHARE Food Hub Program.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Agriculture and Environment. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 13, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. McNeely, Penny, Gillespie, Almond	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Julianna Federich Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 1154 would appropriate a total of \$6 million in nonrecurring funds to expand Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's FarmSHARE food hub program and North Carolina Farmers Market Network's Double Up Food Bucks Program.*

## BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.(a) would appropriate four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association for grants to support the FarmSHARE program to purchase locally grown food and distribute it free to food-insecure individuals and households.

Section 1.(b) would require the Department to make annual reports until the funds are expended to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources (AgNER) and the Fiscal Research Division on at least (i) the number of participants, (ii) food hub locations, and (iii) the amount of food distributed.

Section 2.(a) would appropriate two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the Department in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the North Carolina Farmers Market Network for grants through the Double Up Food Bank Program to make fresh fruits and vegetables sold at farmers markets, food hubs, and other direct agricultural retail outlets accessible to families in the State who receive assistance through nutrition assistance programs.

Section 2.(b) would require the Department to make annual reports until the funds are expended to AgNER and the Fiscal Research Division on at least (i) the number of participants receiving grants, (ii) farmers participating, (iii) participating locations, (iv) amount of financial benefits redeemed by participants, and (v) an assessment of the rate in which participants redeemed financial benefits.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective July 1, 2026.

## BACKGROUND:

The [FarmSHARE program](#) provides funding to partner hubs to purchase locally grown and produced foods from farmers at a fair market value. The hubs then distribute the food at no cost to households in communities with high rates of food insecurity through community-based organizations.

The [Double Up Food Bucks program](#) is a nutrition incentive program that provides a dollar-for-dollar match for SNAP/EBT. The match can be used at farmers markets, food hubs, and direct agricultural retail outlets in North Carolina.

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