

AB405/SB233 Studies Subcommittee

AB405 - related to agriculture; requiring "the Council on Food Security to conduct a study during the 2025-2026 interim to evaluate food insecurity in this State and develop strategies to coordinate statewide efforts to address food insecurity, and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

A.) Evaluation of Existing Laws and Policies												
Task ID	Task Descriptions	Supporting Partner	Target Date	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	
AB405-A1	Conduct workshop evaluating food access laws and policies	NDA, CFS		<p>The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) may have access to some of the information we need, but the foundation for this work comes from the Southern Nevada Food Council (SNFC). SNFC previously evaluated 34 food access policies dating from 2013 to 2025, including those from the most recent legislative session.</p> <p>A workshop now needs to be scheduled so the subcommittee can review and discuss these policies. The plan is to hold this workshop during the April committee meeting, and it is expected to take 40 minutes to 1 hour.</p> <p>Dr. Malik will send the 34 policies to the subcommittee before the April meeting, so members have time to review them in advance. This workshop is required to evaluate existing food access laws and identify gaps, strengths, and opportunities.</p> <p>Preparing for the April workshop means all subcommittee members should review the 34 policies ahead of time.</p>	<p>Dr. Malik provided a presentation on current food insecurity policies in Nevada - 25 food access policies - will cover other next month.</p> <p>Presentation in AB/SB subcommittee meeting packet</p>	<p>Dr. Malik - continued presentation/workshop on evaluation of the food access laws and policies.</p> <p>Completed 35 policies - the report will be available in May's meeting.</p>	<p>Dr Malik - Ones in green - southern Nv food council and governors - both were in agreement on - there is an implementation matrix to showcase how each policy ranges between impact and language - column d highlights whether there was a fiscal note attached the policy language. BCD what dichotomous (yes or no)-</p>					
AB405-A2	Document gaps, strengths, and opportunities in existing laws and policies			Conduct workshop first			<p>Dr. Juniel - direct correlation vs. inverse with how scatter plot matrix is. <b>From what perspective drove the level on indication?</b> Marcia Blake - aligns with what council has been talking about. All highest rankings had a fiscal note attached and organization. Dr. Malik - Highest rankings have to do with distribution. Now moving towards the lowest rankings policy For AB326 good idea, difficult to put into service. Outreach and community involvement ones ranked low. Jeff Duncan notes it was the execution or the way it was written (vagueness in some of the law) making implementation difficult. Its not that is not necessarily its not a good policy just the execution. Moving on to review. Jeff Duncan - Recommendations for the report. MONEY is always the issue. What was the return on investment essentially? What's going to feed into economy. Dr. Malik - recommend using strong language, weren't so vague. Production policies and processing is low which is a huge gap in the state of NV.</p>					
B.) Identification of Areas for Community Gardens or Urban Farms												
Task ID	Task Descriptions	Supporting Partner	Target Date	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	
AB405-B1	Utilize Healthy Food Access Map to identify areas of high food insecurity			<p>Southern Nevada already has a completed food access map and a vacant land inventory, based on work done by the Southern Nevada Food Council. That information is available and can be used immediately.</p> <p>Northern Nevada, however, is still developing its version. The Northern Nevada Food Council (NNFC) is working on mapping food access and food pantry locations, but it is not yet finished. Because of that, the subcommittee needs to do additional research to understand what data exists and what gaps remain.</p> <p>The key question is: Who currently has a complete food access map for Northern Nevada? Right now, Southern Nevada has one; Northern Nevada does not.</p>								

AB405-B2		Overlay vacant land inventory (Southern Nevada) with food insecurity data			<p>The RTC of Southern Nevada has already completed a vacant land inventory identifying roughly 40,000 acres of available land in Southern Nevada. This work was published in 2024 or 2025, and it can be used as an existing resource for the subcommittee's analysis. It is not yet clear whether Northern Nevada has a comparable inventory.</p> <p>Southern Nevada also has a food access map, but it is still unknown whether Northern Nevada has a similar map. The Northern Nevada Food Council (NNFC) is working on mapping food pantry locations, but their broader food access map is not yet complete. Because of this, the subcommittee needs to research what Northern Nevada currently has and what gaps remain.</p> <p>The May meeting is expected to focus on reviewing both the food access map and the vacant land inventory. These are two separate mapping resources, and both are needed to understand statewide food access gaps and opportunities.</p> <p>A key question is whether the policy requires the subcommittee to recommend a statewide food access landscape assessment or</p>													Note - field move towards nutrition security - not food (RTC planning to join June meeting to discuss the overlay map)	
AB405-B3		Assess applicability of Food Access Landscape Assessment for statewide analysis																	

**C.) Coordination of Efforts**

Task ID	Task Descriptions	Supporting Partn	Target Da	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
AB405-C1	Document current coordination efforts among state, local, and private entities			<p>To identify coordination opportunities across the state, the subcommittee will reach out to Council members and ask them to provide a list of their supporting and coordinating partners. Because members represent different sectors and regions, these lists will help us understand who is already working together and where gaps may exist.</p> <p>During a future meeting, the subcommittee will hold a whiteboard-style collaborative activity. The goal is to visually map out a web of partners—showing how organizations connect, where efforts overlap, and where additional coordination may be needed. This exercise will be based on the partners that subcommittee members already know and work with.</p> <p>Once the subcommittee creates this initial partner map, it can be presented to the full Council. Council members can then add any additional partners or connections that were not captured, helping to build a more complete statewide picture.</p>			OFS and Dr. Malik - strategic plan from 2023, needs are listed out what can be used. It just doesn't list out state entities. (whiteboard exercise - tier based)				

**D.) Recommendations**

Task ID	Task Descriptions	Supporting Partn	Target Da	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
AB405-D1	Convene Council to review findings and develop recommendations			This will be a later activity - need to get through the others			Dr. Malik and council will reconvene and discuss the recommendations in June meeting.				
AB405-D2	Finalize coordinated strategies to reduce food insecurity										

SB233 related to agriculture; requiring "the Council on Food Security within the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto."

**A.) SB233 Study Tasks**

Task ID	Task Descriptions	Supporting Partn	Target Da	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
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SB233-1		Identify and convene stakeholders to provide input on long-term cost pressures (e.g., warehousing, transportation, coordination, software)	NDA, Farm Bureau	<p>NDA must be at the table before any meaningful progress can be made. NDA is the agency responsible for initiating the contracts for the Home Feeds Nevada program, while the food banks are primarily the receivers of the product. Because of this, the committee needs NDA's involvement to address key logistical issues such as storage capacity, transportation, and distribution flow.</p> <p>A request will be made for an NDA representative to formally sit on the subcommittee, so questions can be addressed directly during meetings rather than waiting weeks between updates. This participation is essential for statewide coordination and for understanding how the program will function in practice.</p> <p>In addition, the committee must research how other states fund and operate similar programs. More than 20 states have comparable models, and members will divide the list of states and bring their findings to the April meeting. This research will help the subcommittee understand funding structures, operational models, and potential best practices that could apply to Nevada.</p>	<p>Shane will reach out to NDA and the Farm Bureau to invite them to the April meeting. The goal is to gather input for the HFN report and ensure we understand NDA's perspective, including their barriers, challenges, and successes.</p> <p>HFN has an annual report - and the 2025 report is available from the last CFS Meeting.</p>	<p>Packet for April meeting-Previous reports needed - Presentation from 3square and FBNN</p> <p>April discussion items for HFN</p> <p>Questions for the Next meeting - Warehousing - Transportation - Coordination - none Software - Patricia believes this isn't an issue. don't really have a system. opted to move away from contracting processes Barriers, Success</p>	<p>The goal after all this for this is a BDR and committee can design what goes on there. Patricia for NDA description - beginning with program: the questions ask about how premium is based on, size of farm. Which farms are used are based on spending plans look like. Serving food isn't valid but purchasing (that is done year round). Supports local agriculture. If there is ample funding, other items that are higher cost (meat protein, milks) are purchased. Partners - covers producers, and what type of producer is. Farmers and ranchers are producers. processors are the local orgs that process their food (pickles and such) - where meat proteins come from are processors. Transportation and storage: there is a 0% storage cost, was written into a previous RFA. Want to spend all money on food and would rather not spend \$\$ on transportation cost. Ind's served comes directly from the food banks. Food Reporting is from the annual report.</p>	Brainstorm BDR needs			
SB233-2		Document operational and financial challenges affecting long-term program sustainability			<p>Loss of Federal funding</p> <p>No funding is transferred to the food banks - NDA purchase the products and distribute.</p> <p>Evaluation metrics - is this working and how should this continue. Food banks can get the raw numbers - that goes in the report</p>	Home feeds Nevada Reports to review	<p><b>Bryan with RCA - Decisions are not made on a cooperate level, they are made from individual consumers. You can now select from a list of charities who you want to give \$\$ too. puts more responsibility on consumer and educate themselves. Marcia Blake question - Walmart tells you to round up to so and so non profit - for round up campaign, that would mean its pout on the cooperate. Loyalty points vs. round up. Trying to find a better way to consistently fund this. RCA would lean more towards general fund appropriation. Policy vs statistically ~ is the program worth researching and given the long term goals. We lack the agricultural base to pencil this out. Need policies to support the little guys. Both side argument. Revenue is ALWAYS coming up so keep eye on that.</b></p>				
SB233-3		Research and document funding models used by other states (e.g., tax revenue, state appropriations, economic development funding, insurance partnerships)		<p>The legislative intent behind the bill includes identifying funding sources and understanding how similar programs operate in other states. To do this, the committee needs to explore what other states are doing and speak with individuals in the State Treasurer's Office, who may know where additional funds could be identified, allocated, or repurposed. The goal is to take a holistic approach to funding and program design.</p> <p>More than 20 states already have comparable programs. The committee needs to understand: 1.) How those programs are structured. 2.) How they are funded. 3.) What models might apply to Nevada.</p> <p>A list of these states already exists, and Shane will share it with the Council. Once the list is distributed, each committee member will be assigned one or two states to research. Members will review how those states fund and operate their programs and bring their findings to the April meeting.</p>	<p>Other grants put out - Shane will be working on what other states are doing - found Gfund has been collecting. Not a clear definition of what the funding sources are but will continue to research. UNR extension has fact sheets for how other states have spent funds.</p>	<p>Other states are using G Funds.</p> <p>Funding recommendations:</p> <p>Farmer Survey on effects of funding drop - Focus group/roundtable of the Farmers.</p> <p>Medicaid - support - Rx pantry programs.</p> <p>Rural Health Transformation Grant - District/County collaboration</p> <p>HRSA Grant - Expanded Nutrient Services (ENS)</p> <p>State Treasurer's offices outreach for Bond opportunities.</p> <p>Match dollars with grocery stores to</p>	<p>A lot of states asking their states for \$\$ from their states general fund. 1) USDA MS - highest level only goes to 500k but 20% cash match 2) Food is medicine DPBH is going for. 3) Fundraising ideas on statewide (grocery store or farmers markets that could maybe support the cash matched) . The state has a fund to provide matches for funding grants. Just need to apply for them. One of the ways to try to get more federal funding within the state. NDA was looking to apply to LLFPA grant but there was a 25% match so that was a deterrent (in kind matches good possibilities). Barrier or need - NDA a coordinator position (funding for that). NDA chose that FDA wanted to instead spend money on food and not on filling the coordinator position (BDR needs). Look into state grants office, maybe able to leverage someone in their office, this law was created in 2023</p>				
SB233-4		Combine findings into draft report					<p>Ideas to get involved with Medicaid - going to be REALLY difficult to tie these to the 2 programs, only makes sense if it is a huge chunk of change, not how small this is. Would be difficult to get the food out equitably and as quickly as it needs to be, food for medicine app was submitted, NVHA is lead in the application, approved to apply for the final</p>				