



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 94004
BATON ROUGE
70804-9004

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Cameron Henry
President of the Senate
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Yolanda Dixon
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St., Basement
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: Senate Bill Number 287 of the 2024 Regular Session by Senator Royce Duplessis

Dear President Henry and Secretary Dixon:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 287 of the 2024 Regular Session. Senate Bill 287 changes the current Healthy Food Retail Act to mandate that the Louisiana Department of Agriculture contract with qualified nonprofit organizations. Senate Bill 287 creates an unfunded mandate by eliminating the contingent language in R.S. 3:296 that provides the program is only "to the extent that funding is available."

In an almost identical bill, House Bill 670 of the 2024 Regular Session by Representative Edmond Jordan, the Legislative Fiscal Office noted that this program was previously funded by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. However, as noted by the Legislative Fiscal Office, this funding is no longer available as of September of 2023 and there is currently no appropriation by the Legislature for this program.

Retaining the current law still allows the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to provide funding for this program should funding become available.

For these reasons, Senate Bill 287 will not become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry".

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned Senate Bill 287