

Subject Minnesota food bank program
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Summary

This bill establishes the Minnesota food bank program, to distribute money to all regional food banks the commissioner contracts with for purposes of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP is a federal program that provides no-cost emergency food assistance for home use or meals served in congregate settings to low-income individuals, distributed via public or private nonprofit organizations that meet federal criteria.

The bill requires the money to be distributed in accordance with the federal TEFAP formula and United States Department of Agriculture guidelines, and used by all regional food banks to purchase food that will be distributed for free to TEFAP partner agencies. The bill also specifies that distributed money must also be used for handling and delivery fees typically paid by food shelves to food banks.

The bill includes language transferring the responsibilities for the new program to the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families. It also appropriates \$5,000,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2025 for the program and sets the base at \$5,000,000 in each of the following fiscal years.