



152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL NOTE

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**BILL:** SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1 TO SENATE BILL NO. 254  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Brown  
**DESCRIPTION:** AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FOOD DESERTS.

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**Assumptions:**

1. This bill is effective upon signature by the Governor. The provisions of the Act are to be implemented the earlier of either one year from the date of enactment or notice by the Division of Small Business (“the Division”) within the Department of State and published in the Registrar of Regulations that final regulations to implement this Act have been promulgated.
2. This Act expires three years after its implementation into law unless otherwise provided by a subsequent act of the General Assembly.
3. This Act establishes the Delaware Grocery Initiative. Under this Act, the Division shall, subject to appropriation, provide grants for equipment upgrades for existing, independently owned for-profit grocery stores, cooperative grocery stores, or nonprofit nonstock corporation grocery stores.
4. The Act also charges the Delaware Council on Farm & Food Policy with, subject to appropriation, developing a food access strategy to address food insecurity impacting populations within urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the State.
5. It is anticipated 1.0 FTE Principal Planner would be required to administer the provisions of this Act. The estimated Fiscal Year 2025 personnel costs, including other employment costs at a rate of 32.94%, are estimated at \$83,591. Fiscal Year 2025 costs assume nine months of implementation.
  - a. The proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget includes 1.0 FTE and associated funding for purposes of this Act.
6. Future year salary costs are assumed to increase at an annual rate of 2%.

**Cost:**

		Delaware Grocery Initiative and Food Access Strategy
	<u>Ongoing</u>	<u>Food Access Strategy</u>
Fiscal Year 2025	\$ 86,591	Subject to appropriation
Fiscal Year 2026	\$114,385	Subject to appropriation
Fiscal Year 2027	\$117,047	Subject to appropriation

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