

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transactions in fresh produce markets; providing definitions; requiring certain owners and operators of farmers' markets, community farmers' markets, flea markets, and other open-air markets selling fresh produce to allow authorized Food and Nutrition Service groups, associations, and third-party organizations to operate electronic benefits transfer systems in such markets; providing for applicability; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Market" means a farmers' market, community farmers' market, flea market, or other open-air market.

(b) "SNAP" means the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established under 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq.

(2) (a) The owner or operator of a market selling fresh produce who is not an authorized SNAP retailer may allow an authorized Food and Nutrition Service group or association of produce sellers that is actively participating in produce sales in the market, or an authorized Food and Nutrition Service third-party organization, to implement and operate an electronic benefits transfer system for purposes of accepting SNAP benefits in the market on behalf of the produce sellers to the extent and

27 manner allowed by federal law and regulation.

28 (b) The authorized Food and Nutrition Service group,
29 association, or third-party organization responsible for
30 implementation and operation of the electronic benefits transfer
31 system may not be another market that competes with the market
32 being served.

33 (c) The market owner or operator shall reasonably
34 accommodate the authorized Food and Nutrition Service group,
35 association, or third-party organization in the implementation
36 and operation of an electronic benefits transfer system for
37 purposes of accepting SNAP benefits.

38 (3) This section does not:

39 (a) Apply to a market selling fresh produce whose owner or
40 operator has an electronic benefits transfer system for
41 accepting SNAP benefits in the market.

42 (b) Prohibit an authorized Food and Nutrition Service
43 produce seller in a market selling fresh produce from operating
44 his or her own electronic benefits transfer system as part of
45 his or her customer transaction options.

46 (c) Require a market owner or operator to create, operate,
47 or maintain an electronic benefits transfer system on behalf of
48 its produce sellers.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.