

## **HB 1124 expands the purview of Soil and Water Districts Commission to include improving and enhancing soil and watershed health.**

---

### **HEALTHY SOILS**

In addition to its original responsibilities, the soil and water conservation districts commission will now be empowered and required to improve soil and watershed health, water quality, groundwater supply, storm water mitigation, flood control, drought resilience, and crop security.



The dominance of Midwest farmland managed as monocultures often leads to poor air, soil, and water quality and has resulted in the destruction of valuable habitat - all while increasing climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions. **The Commission will be equipped with the authority to help all farms improve their soil and water quality, securing long term productivity of their land and the well-being of surrounding communities.**

One major concern that this bill would address is soil erosion. Soil erosion can lead to less food production (1), and, for example, half of the topsoil is already gone in Northern Missouri, therefore, we must protect the topsoil we have left (2).

Sources:

- 1) <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/soil-erosion-rate-us-midwest-unsustainable-usda>
- 2) <https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/nutrient-management/nm-soil-quality>

---

**Protect the future of Missouri's agriculture industry and the resilience of Missouri's land. Support HB 1124.**

**HB 1125/SB 636 create a tax incentive for small-scale specialty crop farmers in food deserts, supporting new farms for the next generation and improving food insecurity across the state.**

### Missouri's Food Deserts

Food deserts are located in the majority of House Districts. HB 1125/SB 636/HB 1383 create a tax incentive to help create the next generation of farms in Missouri while ensuring we have nutritious food grown in rural parts of the state that need it most.

### Missouri can save money

The reduction in healthcare costs from Missourians eating healthier will outweigh the small cost of this program. In addition to helping people eat healthier, this act could get more people involved in farming, increase time spent outside and put vacant or underused land to good use.

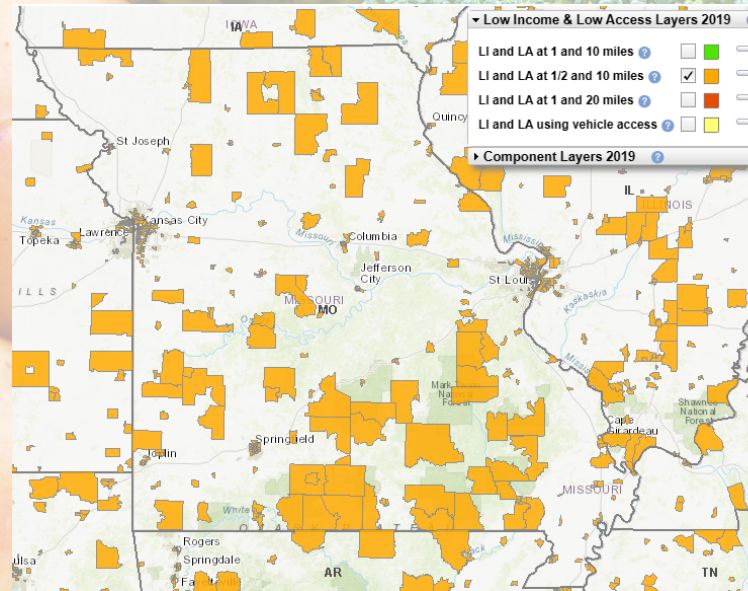
### Missouri can be more self-sufficient

We have plenty of small-scale farmers who could grow more if they were given more support and many aspiring farmers eager to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables for Missouri families! Increasing fruit and vegetable production would also help local economies be more self-reliant in supplying their own nutritious food.

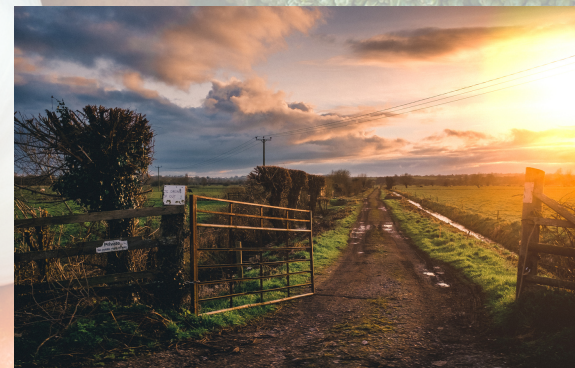
### Missourians want to eat more local food

Missouri consumers want more Missouri-grown produce and this program would have the potential to help family farms diversify their produce operations to meet this demand. With more fruit and vegetables grown, more products will be available to sell at farmers markets, to restaurants, and to communities' grocery stores.

**Farms are an important solution to food insecurity as well as a way to provide jobs and lift communities out of poverty. This bill will help protect an essential part of Missouri's economy and way of life.**



USDA Food Access Research Atlas, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>



Sources:  
1) [www.globaleedge.msu.edu/states/missouri/tradestats](http://www.globaleedge.msu.edu/states/missouri/tradestats)  
2) [www.agriculture.mo.gov/abd/intmkt/pdf/missouri-major-crops-snapshot.pdf](http://www.agriculture.mo.gov/abd/intmkt/pdf/missouri-major-crops-snapshot.pdf)

**Support the future of Missouri's agriculture and food security. Support HB 1125, SB 636, and HB 1383.**