

1 H.857

2 Introduced by Representatives Keefe of Manchester, Botzow of Pownal,  
3 Canfield of Fair Haven, Chesnut-Tangerman of Middletown  
4 Springs, Cupoli of Rutland City, Fields of Bennington, Harrison  
5 of Chittenden, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of Fair Haven, Hill of  
6 Wolcott, Howard of Rutland City, McCoy of Poultney, Miller  
7 of Shaftsbury, Morris of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington,  
8 Pajala of Londonderry, Shaw of Pittsford, and Sullivan of  
9 Dorset

10 Referred to Committee on

11 Date:

12 Subject: Internal security and public safety; needy veterans; food security

13 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the  
14 Vermont Veterans Food Security Grant Program.

15 An act relating to food security for veterans

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. 1606 is added to read:

18 § 1606. VERMONT VETERANS FOOD SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

19 (a) As used in this section, “food insecure” means lacking reliable access to  
20 a reasonably sufficient quantity of nutritious food.

1       (b) The Vermont Veterans Food Security Grant Program is established in  
2       the Agency of Human Services to provide food-insecure veterans in  
3       Bennington and Rutland Counties with access to fresh, nutritious food.

4       (c)(1) Notwithstanding section 1601 of this chapter, the Secretary of  
5       Human Services, in consultation with the Adjutant and Inspector General; the  
6       Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs; the Northeast Organic Farming  
7       Association of Vermont; Northshire Grows, Inc.; the Vermont Veterans'  
8       Home; the Vermont Foodbank; outpatient clinics serving Vermont veterans;  
9       farms in Bennington and Rutland Counties; and other stakeholders, shall  
10       identify food-insecure veterans living in Bennington and Rutland Counties  
11       and, to the extent funds permit, provide grants to assist the identified veterans  
12       in obtaining a community supported agriculture share.

13       (2) Grants shall be provided in conjunction with the Northeast Organic  
14       Farming Association of Vermont's Farm Share program or a similar program  
15       that provides funding to Vermonters with low income for the purchase of high-  
16       quality, locally grown produce.

17       (3) No grant shall be awarded in an amount greater than one-half of the  
18       cost of the community supported agriculture share.

19       (4) The Secretary may award up to 50 grants pursuant to this section in  
20       each fiscal year.

1       Sec. 2. VERMONT VETERANS FOOD SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM;

2                   FISCAL YEAR 2019 GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION

3               The sum of \$15,000.00 in general funds is appropriated in fiscal year 2019

4       to the Agency of Human Services for the provision of grants pursuant to the

5       Vermont Veterans Food Security Grant Program established pursuant to

6       20 V.S.A. § 1606.

7       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

8               This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.