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Require the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales to draw up and implement strategies to promote food justice and to eradicate food poverty; to specify certain matters that shall be considered in the strategies; and for related purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Interpretation

(1) In this Act—

“appropriate authority” means—

- (a) the Secretary of State, in relation to—
 - (i) England, and 5
 - (ii) matters in Wales that are not the responsibility of the National Assembly for Wales;
 - (iii) matters in Scotland that are not reserved matters within the meaning given by the Scotland Act 1998 (c. 46)
- (b) the National Assembly for Wales, in relation to matters that are its responsibility; 10

“community mutual aid” means actions or initiatives by people in the community to improve services or provisions for themselves and other persons in that community;

“food justice” means the right of every person to have reasonable access to a supply of food that is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value. 15

“food justice strategy” means a strategy prepared and published in accordance with the provisions of section 2 or 5;

“food miles” means the total distance travelled by produce from the place of growth or production to the place of consumption; 20

“local food economies” means the growing, raising, processing or marketing of food within a local area for consumption within that same area.

- (2) For the purposes of this Act, a person is to be regarded as experiencing “food poverty” if he does not have reasonable access to a supply of food that is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value because of inadequate—
- (a) income;
 - (b) transport; or
 - (c) information or education.

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2 Food justice strategy

- (1) It shall be the duty of the appropriate authority to prepare and publish, within one year of the passing of this Act, a food justice strategy (“the strategy”), which shall assess the extent, nature and regional distribution of food poverty and set out policies for promoting food justice and for ensuring that, as far as is reasonably practicable, food poverty is eradicated.
- (2) The policies in the strategy shall include a consideration of—
- (a) changes in benefit levels,
 - (b) fiscal changes,
 - (c) changes in planning and transport policies,
 - (d) changes in education policy, and
 - (e) the development of community mutual aid initiatives,
- required to promote greater food justice and eradicate food poverty.
- (3) The strategy shall specify a target date, which shall be no later than 15 years after the publication of the first strategy published by the appropriate authority, for the achievement of the objective of ensuring that, as far as reasonably practicable, food poverty is eradicated.
- (4) The appropriate authority shall take such action within the powers granted to it under any enactment or otherwise as is necessary to implement the strategy.

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3 Content of strategies

- (1) Any strategy or revision of that strategy prepared pursuant to this Act shall include policies or measures that will promote—
- (a) more equitable access to food which has been produced to prescribed animal welfare and environmental standards including but not restricted to organic food, and
 - (b) the improvement of the health of people in the area covered by the strategy or revision,
- and shall consider the development of local food economies in the area covered by the strategy or revision including, but not restricted to, policies to reduce food miles.
- (2) Any strategy or revision of that strategy prepared pursuant to this Act shall indicate the way in which it has taken into account the matters specified in subsection (1) above, and any such strategy may set targets in relation to those matters.

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4 Consultation

In preparing the strategy or any revision of that strategy, the appropriate authority shall consult—

- (a) persons experiencing food poverty;
- (b) persons or organisations with relevant expertise or experience in relation to food poverty or promoting food justice; and
- (c) such other persons as it thinks fit.

5 Progress and revisions of strategies 5

- (1) The appropriate authority shall from time to time assess the impact of action taken pursuant to this Act and progress made in achieving the objectives and target dates of the strategy, and shall—
 - (a) make any revision of the strategy which it considers appropriate in consequence of the assessment; and 10
 - (b) publish a report on the assessment.
- (2) The appropriate authority shall publish any revised strategy.

6 Financial provision

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament—

- (a) *any expenditure incurred by the Secretary of State in consequence of this Act, and* 15
- (b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable out of money so provided by virtue of any other Act.*

7 Short title and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Food Justice Strategy Act 2004. 20
- (2) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.

Food Justice Strategy Bill

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To require the Secretary of State and the National Assembly for Wales to draw up and implement strategies to promote food justice and to eradicate food poverty; to specify certain matters that shall be considered in the strategies; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Alan Simpson,
supported by
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Mr Simon Thomas, Dr Ian Gibson,
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