

foods that do not attempt to replicate “meat” may cost less because of less production and fewer processing costs.

Currently, plant-based companies are able to charge as much as they wish because there are fewer alternatives and consumers are willing to pay that amount. According to The Good Food Institute, as the scale grows, so will the required infrastructure, and production methods will become more efficient. As market position is secured, companies will spread research and development costs over a broader market. The presence of larger companies such as JBS, Nestle, and Tyson will allow a greater focus on large-scale production.

According to a 2015 article published in the Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition, a meat-based meal plan that met the weekly nutrition guidelines recommended by the USDA cost \$14.56 more than a plant-based meal plan that met the same guidelines. (However, these guidelines would be for the general public and would not be designed to fit specific dietary needs of some hospital patients who may require more or less fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, or specific nutrients.)

According to St. Joseph Health System in Sonoma County, California, vegetarian entrees cost less than meat entrees, and the hospital reported savings of \$5,000 per year with meat-free entrees. There may be savings through less food spoilage encountered with animal-based foods.

According to *The Atlantic*, plant-based diets will result in long-term direct health care and environmental savings. These savings would not be easily quantifiable for local governments.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, pertains to the bill as introduced.

Data St. Joseph Health System (California); Associated Press,
Source(s): apnews.com/business%20wire/d26faed82ff8460ca5e7_aeb0eea04530; National Kidney Foundation; Shepon, A., Eshel, G., Noor, E., & Milo, R. (2018). The opportunity cost of animal based diets exceeds all food losses. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 115(15), 3804–3809. doi:10.1073/pnas.1713820115;https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/the-economic-case-for-worldwide-vegetarianism/475524/; Mary M. Flynn & Andrew R. Schiff (2015) Economical Healthy Diets (2012): Including Lean Animal Protein Costs More Than Using Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition, 10:4, 467-482, DOI: 10.1080/19320248.2015.1045675; https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/03/the-economic-case-for-worldwide-vegetarianism/475524/; Specht, PhD, Liz 2019, Why Plant-Based Meat Will Ultimately Be Less Expensive Than Conventional Meat, Good Food Institute, accessed January 30, 2019, https://www.gfi.org/plant-based-meat-will-be-less-expensive

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