

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 449**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul McMurtry***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act encouraging SNAP purchases at local community farmers markets.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>

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By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 449) of Paul McMurtry and others for legislation to authorize a farmers market healthy alternative incentive program. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3419 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act encouraging SNAP purchases at local community farmers markets.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 2E the following section:-

3           Section 2F. (a)There shall be within the department of agriculture a farmers market  
4 healthy alternative incentive program. The program shall provide that for every dollar of  
5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, established pursuant to the Food and  
6 Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. section 2011 hereinafter referred to as SNAP, redeemed at a  
7 farmers market by a SNAP recipient, the recipient shall receive a matching benefit of \$1, up to  
8 \$20 per week to purchase healthy fresh food from a farmers’ market.

9 For each matching benefit received from a farmers market vendor, the vendor shall be  
10 reimbursed from the Farmers Market Fund as established by this section.

11 For the purposes of this section “farmers' market” shall mean a public market occurring  
12 multiple times per year operating for the primary purpose of connecting and mutually benefiting  
13 Massachusetts farmers, communities and shoppers and selling items that have been produced by  
14 a local farm directly to the public.

15 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate  
16 fund, to be administered by the commissioner, which shall be known as the Farmers’ Market  
17 SNAP Match Fund. The Fund shall consist of all revenues from public and private sources as  
18 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations and from the federal government as reimbursements,  
19 grants-in-aid or other receipts to further the purposes of the Fund in accordance with this section.

20 (c ) The department shall apply for any available federal program such as Food Insecurity  
21 Nutrition Incentive Grants administered by the United States Department of Agriculture to  
22 provide matching benefits to be deposited in the Fund. A farmers’ market shall have first  
23 priority for participation in such grant program.

24 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall promulgate rules and regulations to  
25 implement the program set forth in section 1.