

HOUSE No. 556

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Smitty Pignatelli

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 establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Rady Mom</i>	<i>18th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Lenny Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>

<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>James M. Kelcourse</i>	<i>1st Essex</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>

HOUSE No. 556

By Mr. Pignatelli of Lee, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 556) of Smitty Pignatelli and others for legislation to establish farm to school grants program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

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 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding, at the end
2 thereof, the following section:-

3 Section 37. (a) The department shall operate a competitive grant program called the
4 Massachusetts Farm to School Grant Program with the purpose of strengthening the
5 Massachusetts food economy and improving student health and nutrition. The purpose of the
6 program is to build the capacity of primary and secondary public schools to purchase ingredients
7 grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked meals and educate students about
8 the food system.

9 (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a
10 public school located in the commonwealth; (2) have not less than forty percent of students who
11 are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federally-funded school meals program;

12 and (3) include with their application a letter of agreement with a Massachusetts farmer,
13 fisherman, or distributor of Massachusetts farm or seafood products that indicates an existing or
14 anticipated relationship for procuring food, and an estimated annual dollar value of those
15 purchases.

16 (c) The program shall provide, subject to appropriation, funding for the following
17 priorities, in order of importance: (1) adequate kitchen equipment used to prepare food for
18 serving in school meals and snacks including but not limited to local, fresh produce, meats,
19 seafood, and dairy items; (2) training school kitchen staff in preparing fresh meals using local
20 ingredients and in procuring such ingredients, and for training educators and other school staff in
21 adding or integrating food system lessons to their curriculum; and (3) infrastructure and
22 programming for curricular and extracurricular activities for students to learn about agriculture
23 and the food system.

24 (d) Up to fifteen percent of the funds in each grant may be used for the purchase of foods
25 raised, grown or produced in Massachusetts, provided that preparation and consumption of these
26 foods relates to the primary grant activity or expenditure.

27 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations or guidelines to implement the program
28 established pursuant to section 37A of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 1
29 above.