

SENATE No. 243

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>2/21/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/3/2023</i>

SENATE No. 243

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 243) of Joanne M. Comerford, Adam Scanlon, Adam Scanlon, Anne M. Gobi and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

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 Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 37. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall administer a
3 Massachusetts Farm to School Grant Program, with the aim of strengthening the Massachusetts
4 food and agriculture economy and improving student health and nutrition. The program shall
5 build the capacity of primary and secondary schools and licensed childcare programs to purchase
6 ingredients grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked meals and educate
7 students about the food system. The department shall execute, administer and award grants in
8 consultation with an advisory committee that shall include a representative from the department
9 of agricultural resources, the department of early education and care, and a geographically and
10 demographically diverse group of stakeholders appointed by the commissioner of the
11 department.

12 (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a
13 public school or licensed child care program located in the commonwealth; or (2) provide meals
14 through the National School Lunch Program or the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program.

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

23 (d) Up to 15 per cent of the funds in each grant may be used for the purchase of foods
24 raised, grown or produced in Massachusetts, provided that preparation and consumption of these
25 foods relates to the primary grant activity or expenditure.

26 (e) The department, with input from the advisory committee, shall promulgate regulations
27 or guidelines to implement the program established pursuant to subsection (a). The regulations or
28 guidelines promulgated by the department shall include eligibility criteria that promotes
29 geographic, social, economic, and racial equity in distribution of grant funds.