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S.273

Introduced by Senators Hardy, Pearson, Balint, Bray, Campion, Clarkson,
Hooker, McCormack, Perchlik, Pollina, Sirotkin and Starr

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Education; school food programs; correctional facilities; locally
produced foods

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create
incentives for schools to purchase locally produced foods and provide related
administrative support. This bill also proposes to establish the goal that, by the
year 2023 at least 20 percent of all foods purchased for meals served in
correctional facilities shall be locally produced foods.

An act relating to creating incentives for schools and establishing a goal for
correctional facilities to purchase locally produced foods

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 1262a is amended to read:

§ 1262a. AWARD OF GRANTS

* * *

1 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 1264a is added to read:

2 § 1264a. LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS

3 (a) It is a goal of the State that by the year 2022 at least 20 percent of all
4 foods purchased for school lunch, breakfast, or summer meals programs shall
5 be locally produced foods. School boards have the discretion to define what
6 foods are included within the definition of “locally produced foods” for the
7 purposes of this subsection and subsection (b) of this section.

8 (b)(1) On or before December 31, 2020 and annually thereafter, a school
9 board operating a school lunch, breakfast, or summer meals program shall
10 submit to the Agency of Education an estimate of the percentage of locally
11 produced foods that were purchased by the school board for those programs
12 during the preceding school year or, for summer meal programs, during the
13 preceding summer.

14 (2) On or before January 31, 2021 and annually thereafter, the Agency
15 of Education shall submit to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and on
16 Education and the House Committees on Agriculture and Forestry and on
17 Education in an aggregated form the information received from school boards
18 regarding the percentage of locally produced foods that are purchased as part
19 of a school lunch, breakfast, or summer meals program. The provisions of
20 2 V.S.A. § 20(d) regarding expiration of required reports shall not apply to the
21 report required by this subdivision.

1 (c)(1) Beginning in the 2020–21 school year and thereafter, school districts
2 whose boards report purchasing at least 15 percent of locally produced foods in
3 aggregate under school lunch, breakfast, and summer meals programs under
4 subsection (b) of this section shall be eligible to apply to the Agency of
5 Education for a local foods incentive payment from funds appropriated to the
6 Agency of Education for this purpose.

7 (2) A school district that is eligible to apply for a local foods incentive
8 payment under subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) may apply to the Agency
9 for this payment by submitting information that demonstrates that at least 15
10 percent of all foods purchased by the school board in the aggregate for school
11 lunch, breakfast, or summer meals programs during the preceding school year,
12 or, for summer meal programs, during the preceding summer, were fruits,
13 vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy, and eggs that are grown or raised in Vermont
14 or within 30 miles of the Vermont border or foods processed in Vermont with
15 at least 75 percent Vermont-grown or -raised ingredients.

16 (3) If a school district is eligible for a local foods incentive payment
17 under subdivision (2) of this subsection (c), then the Agency shall make the
18 incentive payment, subject to appropriation, which shall be determined as
19 follows:

20 (A) 15 cents per plate served through a school lunch program for
21 school districts purchasing at least 15 percent or more locally produced foods;

1 (B) 20 cents per plate served through a school lunch program for
2 school districts purchasing at least 20 percent or more locally produced foods;
3 or

4 (C) 25 cents per plate served through a school lunch program for
5 school districts purchasing at least 25 percent or more locally produced foods.

6 Sec. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

7 (a) The Agency of Education shall collaborate with the Agency of
8 Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife to promote the local foods program under
9 16 V.S.A. § 1264a to school districts, farmers, food processors, and
10 distributors.

11 (b) The following position is created in the Agency of Education: one full-
12 time, classified position specializing in the administration of school food
13 programs to assist school districts with expanding access to locally produced
14 foods. The position established in this subsection shall be transferred and
15 converted from an existing vacant position in the Executive Branch of State
16 government. There is appropriated to the Agency of Education from the
17 General Fund for fiscal year 2021 the amount of \$100,000.00 for salary,
18 benefits, and operating expenses.

1 Sec. 5. APPROPRIATION FOR SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

2 There is appropriated to the Agency of Education from the General Fund
3 for fiscal year 2021 the amount of \$75,000.00 for the summer food service
4 program under 16 V.S.A. § 1264(a)(2).

5 Sec. 6. CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

6 (a) It is a goal of the State that by the year 2023 at least 20 percent of all
7 foods purchased for meals served in correctional facilities shall be locally
8 produced foods. As used in this section, “locally produced foods” mean fruits,
9 vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy, and eggs that are grown or raised in Vermont
10 or within 30 miles of the Vermont border or foods processed in Vermont with
11 at least 75 percent Vermont-grown or-raised ingredients.

12 (b) On or before January 15, 2021 and annually thereafter, the Department
13 of Corrections shall report to the House Committees on Agriculture and
14 Forestry and on Corrections and Institutions and the Senate Committees on
15 Agriculture and on Institutions the estimated percentage of locally produced
16 foods purchased by correctional facilities during the previous fiscal year.

17 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on passage.