



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 746

February 12, 2010 - Introduced by Representatives VRUWINK, JORGENSEN, BLACK, BENEDICT, VAN AKKEREN, SUDER, A. OTT, ZEPNICK, GARTHWAITE, ROYS, TURNER, SINICKI, HUBLER, BERCEAU, HEBL, DANOU, RIPP, HRAYCHUCK, HILGENBERG, PASCH, MASON, POPE-ROBERTS, ZIGMUNT, MOLEPSKE JR., STEINBRINK, SMITH, PETROWSKI, PARISI, RADCLIFFE, HIXSON, LOTHIAN and MILROY, cosponsored by Senators LASSA, TAYLOR, RISSER, LEHMAN, HANSEN and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

1 **AN ACT to create** 15.137 (3), 20.115 (4) (as), 20.115 (4) (at) and 93.49 of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** promoting the use of locally grown food in school meals
3 and snacks and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to promote farm to school programs. A farm to school program seeks to connect schools with nearby farms to provide children with locally produced fresh foods in school meals and snacks, help children develop healthy eating habits, provide nutritional and agricultural education, and improve farmers' incomes. The bill also creates a program for DATCP to provide grants to school districts, nonprofit organizations, and others for the creation and expansion of farm to school programs. The bill establishes a farm to school council to advise DATCP and to report to the legislature about the needs and opportunities for farm to school programs.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

4 **SECTION 1.** 15.137 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 15.137 (3) FARM TO SCHOOL COUNCIL. (a) There is created in the department of
2 agriculture, trade and consumer protection a farm to school council.

3 (b) The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall appoint
4 to the council an employee of the department and shall appoint farmers, experts in
5 child health, school food service personnel, and other persons with interests in
6 agriculture, nutrition, and education.

7 (c) The secretary of health services shall appoint to the council an employee of
8 the department of health services.

9 (d) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint to the council an
10 employee of the department of public instruction.

11 **SECTION 2.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
12 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

				2009-10	2010-11
13					
14	20.115	Agriculture, trade and consumer			
15		protection, department of			

16 (4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

17	(as)	Farm to school grants	GPR	A	-0-	-0-
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18	(at)	Farm to school program adminis-				
19		tration	GPR	A	-0-	-0-

20 **SECTION 3.** 20.115 (4) (as) of the statutes is created to read:

21 20.115 (4) (as) *Farm to school grants*. The amounts in the schedule for farm
22 to school grants under s. 93.49 (3).

23 **SECTION 4.** 20.115 (4) (at) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 20.115 (4) (at) *Farm to school program administration*. The amounts in the
2 schedule for promotion of farm to school programs under s. 93.49.

3 **SECTION 5.** 93.49 of the statutes is created to read:

4 **93.49 Farm to school programs. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section, “farm to
5 school program” means a program to connect schools with nearby farms to provide
6 children with locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious,
7 locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks; help children
8 develop healthy eating habits; provide nutritional and agricultural education; and
9 improve farmers’ incomes and direct access to markets.

10 **(2) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.** (a) The department shall promote farm to
11 school programs. The department shall encourage schools, as part of farm to school
12 programs, to purchase food produced in this state and to provide nutritional and
13 agricultural education, including farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and
14 composting and gardening at schools.

15 (b) The department shall do all of the following in carrying out its
16 responsibilities under par. (a):

17 1. Identify impediments to providing locally produced fresh fruits and
18 vegetables and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches,
19 and snacks and seek to reduce those impediments.

20 2. Advise other state agencies and local agencies on actions to promote farm to
21 school programs and coordinate the department’s activities under this subsection
22 with related activities of other state agencies, including the department of public
23 instruction and the department of health services, local agencies, and nonprofit
24 organizations.

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1 3. Promote communications between local farmers and schools and sales of food
2 from local farmers to schools.

3 4. Conduct training and provide technical assistance for school food service
4 personnel and managers, farmers, and food distributors and processors concerning
5 farm to school programs and food safety and procurement.

6 5. Promote farm to school programs through a public education campaign.

7 6. Provide information on its Internet site concerning farm to school programs.

8 7. Consult with the farm to school council and other interested persons.

9 **(3) GRANT PROGRAM.** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (as), the
10 department shall provide grants to school districts, nonprofit organizations,
11 farmers, and any other entities for the creation and expansion of farm to school
12 programs. The department shall give preference to proposals that are innovative or
13 that provide models that other school districts can adopt.

14 (b) The department may provide funding under this subsection for projects that
15 do any of the following:

16 1. Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and
17 distribution of food produced in this state for sale to schools in this state.

18 2. Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for
19 the facilities, that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in schools in
20 this state.

21 3. Provide, expand, or promote training for training for food service personnel,
22 farmers, and distributors.

23 4. Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education in the
24 classroom.

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1 (c) The department shall consult with the farm to school council and other
2 interested persons to establish grant priorities for each fiscal year.

3 **(4) RULES.** The department shall promulgate rules for the administration of
4 this section.

5 **(5) REPORTS.** At least annually, the farm to school council shall report to the
6 legislature under s. 13.172 (2) and to the secretary on the needs and opportunities
7 for farm to school programs.

8 **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

9 **(1) POSITION AUTHORIZATION.** The authorized FTE positions for the department
10 of agriculture, trade and consumer protection are increased by 1.0 GPR position to
11 be funded from the appropriation under section 20.115 (4) (at) of the statutes, as
12 created by this act, for promotion of farm to school programs.

13

(END)