

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to school food service programs; amending  
 3           s. 1006.06, F.S.; creating the Florida Farm Fresh Schools  
 4           Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
 5           Services; providing legislative intent; requiring the  
 6           department to work with the Department of Education to  
 7           recommend policies and rules to the State Board of  
 8           Education relating to school food services which encourage  
 9           schools and school districts in this state to buy fresh  
 10          and local food; requiring the Department of Agriculture  
 11          and Consumer Services to provide outreach services  
 12          regarding the benefits of fresh food products from this  
 13          state; exempting the procurement of fresh fruits and  
 14          vegetables purchased for the Florida Farm Fresh Schools  
 15          Program from certain bid limits pursuant to s. 287.057,  
 16          F.S.; requiring the program to maintain compliance with  
 17          the rules and regulations of the National School Lunch  
 18          Program; providing an effective date.

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 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 22           Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1006.06,  
 23           Florida Statutes, to read:

24           1006.06 School food service programs.--

25           (6) The Legislature, recognizing that school children need  
 26           nutritious food not only for healthy physical and intellectual  
 27           development but also to combat diseases related to poor  
 28           nutrition and obesity, establishes the Florida Farm Fresh

29 Schools Program within the Department of Agriculture and  
 30 Consumer Services as the lead agency for the program. The  
 31 program shall:

32 (a) Require the department to work with the Department of  
 33 Education to recommend policies and rules to the State Board of  
 34 Education pertaining to school food services that:

35 1. Encourage the patronization of products from farmers in  
 36 this state by requiring school districts and schools to buy  
 37 fresh and high quality foods grown in this state when feasible;

38 2. Encourage and solicit farmers in this state to sell  
 39 their products to school districts and schools in this state;

40 3. Require school districts and schools to make reasonable  
 41 efforts to select foods based on a preference for those that  
 42 have maximum nutritional content; and

43 4. Encourage school districts and schools to demonstrate a  
 44 preference for competitively priced organic food products.

45 (b) Require the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
 46 Services to provide outreach, guidance, and training to  
 47 districts, schools, school food service directors, parent and  
 48 teacher organizations, and students about the benefits of fresh  
 49 food products from farms in this state.

50 (c) Exempt fresh fruits and vegetables purchased as a  
 51 result of the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program from the  
 52 CATEGORY TWO bid limit of \$25,000 in s. 287.057.

53 (d) Maintain compliance with the rules and regulations of  
 54 the National School Lunch Program.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.