

By Senator Siplin

19-03766A-08

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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 Schools

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29 Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
30 Services as the lead agency for the program. The program shall:
31 (a) Require the department to work with the Department of
32 Education to recommend policies and rules to the State Board of
33 Education pertaining to school food services that:
34 1. Encourage the patronization of products from farmers in
35 this state by requiring school districts and schools to buy fresh
36 and high quality foods grown in this state when feasible;
37 2. Encourage and solicit farmers in this state to sell
38 their products to school districts and schools in this state;
39 3. Require school districts and schools to make reasonable
40 efforts to select foods based on a preference for those that have
41 maximum nutritional content; and
42 4. Encourage school districts and schools to demonstrate a
43 preference for competitively priced organic food products.
44 (b) Require the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
45 Services to provide outreach, guidance, and training to
46 districts, schools, school food service directors, parent and
47 teacher organizations, and students about the benefits of fresh
48 food products from farms in this state.
49 (c) Exempt fresh fruits and vegetables purchased as a
50 result of the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program from the
51 Category Two bid limit of \$25,000 in s. 287.057.
52 (d) Maintain compliance with the rules and regulations of
53 the National School Lunch Program.
54 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.