

By Senator Siplin

19-00174-09

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

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

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

26           1006.06 School food service programs.—

27           (6) The Legislature, recognizing that school children need  
28 nutritious food not only for healthy physical and intellectual  
29 development, but also to combat diseases related to poor

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30 nutrition and obesity, establishes the Florida Farm Fresh  
31 Schools Program within the Department of Agriculture and  
32 Consumer Services as the lead agency for the program. The  
33 program shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.