

By Senator Siplin

19-00168-10

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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 Education; providing legislative intent; requiring the
6 department to work with the Department of Agriculture
7 and Consumer Services to recommend policies and rules
8 to the State Board of Education relating to school
9 food services which encourage schools and school
10 districts in this state to buy fresh and local food;
11 requiring the Department of Education, in
12 collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and
13 Consumer Services, to provide outreach services
14 regarding the benefits of fresh food products from
15 this state; requiring the program to maintain
16 compliance with the rules and regulations of the
17 National School Lunch Program; providing an effective
18 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 Education as the lead

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30 agency for the program. The program shall:

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

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

51 (c) Maintain compliance with the rules and regulations of
52 the National School Lunch Program.

53 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.