

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to school garden programs; creating s.
 3 1003.481, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education,
 4 in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture
 5 and Consumer Services, to annually provide certain
 6 information relating to school garden programs to
 7 school districts; authorizing schools that establish a
 8 school garden program to allow certain students to
 9 select and receive produce from the garden; providing
 10 for the distribution of produce; providing exemption
 11 from certain statutes and rules; providing an
 12 effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 1003.481, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 1003.481 School garden programs.-

19 (1) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the
 20 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, shall annually
 21 provide information to each school district related to
 22 establishing a school garden program at schools within the
 23 district. The information must include, but is not limited to,
 24 requirements for establishing a school garden program, state
 25 grants available for school garden programs, and other available

26 resources.

27 (2) A school that establishes a school garden program may
28 select one day a week to allow students who qualify for free or
29 reduced-price school lunch to select and receive produce from
30 the garden. Each school garden program may establish procedures
31 for the distribution of produce.

32 (3) A school that establishes a school garden program is
33 exempt from any portion of statute or rule that prohibits a
34 student from receiving produce from or consuming produce grown
35 in a garden on school grounds through the school garden program.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.