

By Senator Torres

15-01360A-17

20171692__

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 an
11 exemption from certain statutes and rules; providing
12 an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
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

15-01360A-17

20171692__

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.