

HOUSE No. 3419

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul McMurtry

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act encouraging SNAP purchases at local community farmers markets.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/16/2015</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>4/13/2015</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2015</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/27/2015</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>	<i>1/21/2015</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2015</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/13/2015</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannel</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>	<i>2/2/2015</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/13/2015</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2015</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/25/2015</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2015</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>4/14/2015</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2015</i>

HOUSE No. 3419

By Mr. McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3419) of Paul McMurtry and others for legislation to authorize a farmers market healthy alternative incentive program. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act encouraging SNAP purchases at local community farmers markets.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2E the following section:-

3 Section 2F. (a)There shall be within the department of agriculture a farmers market
4 healthy alternative incentive program. The program shall provide that for every dollar of
5 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, established pursuant to the Food and
6 Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. section 2011 hereinafter referred to as SNAP, redeemed at a
7 farmers market by a SNAP recipient, the recipient shall receive a matching benefit of \$1, up to
8 \$20 per week to purchase healthy fresh food from a farmers’ market.

9 For each matching benefit received from a farmers market vendor, the vendor shall be
10 reimbursed from the Farmers Market Fund as established by this section.

11 For the purposes of this section “farmers' market” shall mean a public market occurring
12 multiple times per year operating for the primary purpose of connecting and mutually benefiting

13 Massachusetts farmers, communities and shoppers and selling items that have been produced by
14 a local farm directly to the public.

15 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
16 fund, to be administered by the commissioner, which shall be known as the Farmers' Market
17 SNAP Match Fund. The Fund shall consist of all revenues from public and private sources as
18 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations and from the federal government as reimbursements,
19 grants-in-aid or other receipts to further the purposes of the Fund in accordance with this section.

20 (c) The department shall apply for any available federal program such as Food Insecurity
21 Nutrition Incentive Grants administered by the United States Department of Agriculture to
22 provide matching benefits to be deposited in the Fund. A farmers' market shall have first
23 priority for participation in such grant program.

24 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall promulgate rules and regulations to
25 implement the program set forth in section 1.