

HOUSE No. 2131

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul W. Mark

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 relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2131

By Mr. Mark of Peru, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2131) of Paul W. Mark, Christopher M. Markey and John J. Lawn, Jr., for legislation to establish a program to provide matching reimbursements for healthy food programs within the Department of Agricultural Resources. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program.

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 agricultural resources a healthy
4 incentives program. The program shall provide that for every dollar of Supplemental Nutrition
5 Assistance Program benefits, established pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7
6 U.S.C. section 2011 hereinafter referred to as SNAP, redeemed for fruit and vegetable purchases,
7 either fresh, canned, dried or frozen, by a SNAP recipient, the recipient shall receive a matching
8 benefit reimbursed on the recipient’s EBT card of one dollar, within limits to be established by
9 the department.

10

11 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
12 fund, to be jointly administered by the commissioners of the department of agricultural resources
13 and the department of transitional assistance, which shall be known as the Massachusetts Healthy
14 Incentives Fund. The Fund shall consist of all revenues from public and private sources as
15 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations and from the federal government as reimbursements,
16 grants-in-aid or other receipts to further the purposes of the Fund in accordance with this section.

17 (c) The department of agricultural resources or its partners shall apply for any available
18 federal programs such as Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grants administered by the United
19 States Department of Agriculture to provide matching benefits to be deposited in the Fund.

20 SECTION 2. The department of agricultural resources shall promulgate rules and
21 regulations to implement the program set forth in section 1.