

HOUSE No. 4232

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, November 26, 2019.

The committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 145) of Paul W. Mark and others relative to establishing within the Department of Transitional Assistance an agricultural healthy incentives program operated in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Resources and the Department of Public Health, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4232) ought to pass.

For the committee,

KAY KHAN.

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

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) The department of transitional assistance, in partnership with the
4 department of agricultural resources and the department of public health, shall operate a healthy
5 incentives program. The program shall provide that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
6 benefits, established pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. section 2011
7 hereinafter referred to as SNAP, redeemed for fruit and vegetable purchases, either fresh,
8 canned, dried or frozen, by a SNAP recipient at a participating vendor, shall entitle the recipient
9 to receive a matching benefit reimbursed on the recipient's EBT card, within limits to be
10 established by the department.

11 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
12 fund, to be administered by the commissioner of the department of transitional assistance, which
13 shall be known as the Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Fund. The Fund shall consist of all

14 revenues from public and private sources as appropriations, gifts, grants, donations,
15 reimbursements from the federal government and grants-in-aid or other receipts to further the
16 purposes of the Fund in accordance with this section.

17 (c) The Department of Transitional Assistance and its partners may apply for any
18 available federal programs such as Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program administered
19 by the United States Department of Agriculture to provide matching benefits to be deposited in
20 the Fund.

21 SECTION 2. The Department of Transitional Assistance shall promulgate rules and
22 regulations to implement the program set forth in section 1.