

**SENATE . . . . . No. 301**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Eric P. Lesser*

*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 establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Eric P. Lesser</i>	<i>First Hampden and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>
<i>Edward J. Kennedy</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Adam G. Hinds</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Dean A. Tran</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/12/2019</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/29/2019</i>
<i>Bradford Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>José F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/13/2019</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>2/13/2019</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>First Suffolk</i>	<i>10/29/2019</i>

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By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 301) of Eric P. Lesser, Anne M. Gobi, Diana DiZoglio, Edward J. Kennedy and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy. Education.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

*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 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding, at the end  
2 thereof, the following section:-

3           Section 37. (a) The department shall operate a competitive grant program called the  
4 Massachusetts Farm to School Grant Program with the purpose of strengthening the  
5 Massachusetts food economy and improving student health and nutrition. The purpose of the  
6 program is to build the capacity of primary and secondary public schools to purchase ingredients  
7 grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked meals and educate students about  
8 the food system.

9           (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a  
10 public school located in the commonwealth; (2) have not less than forty percent of students who  
11 are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the federally-funded school meals program;

12 and (3) include with their application a letter of agreement with a Massachusetts farmer,  
13 fisherman, or distributor of Massachusetts farm or seafood products that indicates an existing or  
14 anticipated relationship for procuring food, and an estimated annual dollar value of those  
15 purchases.

16 (c) The program shall provide, subject to appropriation, funding for the following  
17 priorities, in order of importance: (1) adequate kitchen equipment used to prepare food for  
18 serving in school meals and snacks including but not limited to local, fresh produce, meats,  
19 seafood, and dairy items; (2) training school kitchen staff in preparing fresh meals using local  
20 ingredients and in procuring such ingredients, and for training educators and other school staff in  
21 adding or integrating food system lessons to their curriculum; and (3) infrastructure and  
22 programming for curricular and extracurricular activities for students to learn about agriculture  
23 and the food system.

24 (d) Up to fifteen percent of the funds in each grant may be used for the purchase of foods  
25 raised, grown or produced in Massachusetts, provided that preparation and consumption of these  
26 foods relates to the primary grant activity or expenditure.

27 (e) The department shall promulgate regulations or guidelines to implement the program  
28 established pursuant to section 37A of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in section 1  
29 above.