

SENATE No. 349

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>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>3/9/2021</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/19/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>4/16/2021</i>
<i>Michael J. Moran</i>	<i>18th Suffolk</i>	<i>4/22/2021</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>5/10/2021</i>

<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>10/18/2021</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/10/2022</i>

SENATE No. 349

By Mr. Lesser, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 349) of Eric P. Lesser, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Adam J. Scanlon, Joan B. Lovely 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.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 301 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**
—————

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 new section:-

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

10 (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a
11 public school or licensed child care program located in the commonwealth; (2) provide meals
12 through the federally funded National School Lunch Program and/or Child and Adult Care
13 Feeding Program; and (3) include with their application a letter of agreement with a
14 Massachusetts farmer, fisherman, or distributor of Massachusetts farm or seafood products that
15 indicates an existing or anticipated relationship for procuring food, and an estimated annual
16 dollar value of those purchases.

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

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

28 (e) The department of elementary and secondary education, with input from the
29 department of early education and care, shall promulgate regulations or guidelines to implement
30 the program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Said regulations or guidelines

- 31 promulgated by the department shall include eligibility criteria that promotes geographic, social,
32 economic, and racial equity in distribution of grant funds.