

HOUSE No. 558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Smitty Pignatelli

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:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>1/12/2023</i>
<i>Adam Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Kelly W. Pease</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>1/29/2023</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>

<i>James C. Arena-DeRosa</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Christopher M. Markey</i>	<i>9th Bristol</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>
<i>Jennifer Balinsky Armini</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>	<i>2/4/2023</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/6/2023</i>
<i>Rodney M. Elliott</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/8/2023</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/10/2023</i>
<i>Aaron L. Saunders</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>2/11/2023</i>
<i>Rob Consalvo</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>
<i>Kate Donaghue</i>	<i>19th Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2023</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/22/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>3/30/2023</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>4/4/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>	<i>4/14/2023</i>
<i>Estela A. Reyes</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>	<i>4/14/2023</i>
<i>Kristin E. Kassner</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>	<i>4/19/2023</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>4/20/2023</i>
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/21/2023</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>6/28/2023</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>10/12/2023</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>	<i>11/8/2023</i>
<i>Samantha Montaño</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/5/2024</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>	<i>1/12/2024</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampden</i>	<i>1/17/2024</i>
<i>William J. Driscoll, Jr.</i>	<i>7th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/31/2024</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/5/2024</i>

HOUSE No. 558

By Representative Pignatelli of Lenox, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 558) of Smitty Pignatelli and others for legislation to establish a farm to school grants program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

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 the following
2 section:-

3 Section 37. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education shall administer a
4 Massachusetts Farm to School Grant Program, with the aim of strengthening the Massachusetts
5 food and agriculture economy and improving student health and nutrition. The program shall
6 build the capacity of primary and secondary schools and licensed childcare programs to purchase
7 ingredients grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked meals and educate
8 students about the food system. The department shall execute, administer and award grants in
9 consultation with an advisory committee that shall include a representative from the department
10 of agricultural resources, the department of early education and care, and a geographically and

11 demographically diverse group of stakeholders appointed by the commissioner of the
12 department.

13 (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a
14 public school or licensed child care program located in the commonwealth; or (2) provide meals
15 through the National School Lunch Program or the Child and Adult Care Feeding Program.

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

24 (d) Up to 15 per cent 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, with input from the advisory committee, shall promulgate regulations
28 or guidelines to implement the program established pursuant to subsection (a). The regulations or
29 guidelines promulgated by the department shall include eligibility criteria that promotes
30 geographic, social, economic, and racial equity in distribution of grant funds.

31