

SENATE No. 85

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi

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>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampshire</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i>	<i>1/23/2023</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Barrett</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>1/30/2023</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Mark C. Montigny</i>	<i>Second Bristol and Plymouth</i>	<i>2/1/2023</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Michael J. Soter</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>	<i>2/2/2023</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>Hampden and Hampshire</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/7/2023</i>

<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Vanna Howard</i>	<i>17th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>	<i>2/14/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Walter F. Timilty</i>	<i>Norfolk, Plymouth and Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Hampden</i>	<i>2/27/2023</i>
<i>Carlos González</i>	<i>10th Hampden</i>	<i>3/1/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>3/2/2023</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	<i>3/6/2023</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>	<i>4/14/2023</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>5/9/2023</i>

SENATE No. 85

By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 85) of Anne M. Gobi, Joanne M. Comerford, Jacob R. Oliveira, Hannah Kane and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 108 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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.