

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jennifer M. Callahan

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the distribution of farm produce to needy persons.

PETITION OF:

NAME: _____ | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: _____

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3902 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF FARM PRODUCE TO NEEDY PERSONS.

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. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following clauses:-

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4 Fifty-sixth. Any and all amounts spent or donated by farmers, providers and transporters, for purposes of
5 the farm to family produce network program defined in chapter 128, inclusive of drivers' expenses, labor, tolls,
6 gasoline and vehicle maintenance and cost.

7

8 Fifty-seventh. One half the expense spent by non-profit corporations, charitable corporations, food banks
9 and food pantries, or any other entity or individual approved by the commissioner of agriculture, for the planning
10 and purchase of produce by an approved provider participating in the farm to family produce network program.

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13 Section 2. Section 3 of chapter 128 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the
14 following:-

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16 The department shall develop a farm to family produce network and resource program and guide which
17 will inform the public and allow non-profit corporations, charitable corporations, food banks and food pantries and

18 any other entity or individual the commissioner deems appropriate, to develop direct farm contacts to coordinate
19 the purchase of produce throughout the year.

20

21 The department shall publish and circulate informational materials for the family produce network and
22 shall collaborate with the department of transportation to inform independent transporters of the social and tax
23 benefits of participating in the farm to family produce network.

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26 Section 3. Section 5 of said chapter 128, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 5 after the word
27 "thereof," the following:-

28

29 including the names and addresses of providers, recipients and transporters participating in the farm to
30 family produce program,

31 Section 4, Chapter 20 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

32 Section 7. There is hereby established a Farm-to-Family Hunger Relief grant program for the purpose of awarding
33 matching grant funds to organizations as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 59 by the Commissioner.

34