

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mr. Downing

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 establishing the Massachusetts EBT Farmers' Market Project.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Mr. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS EBT FARMERS' MARKET PROJECT.

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 18 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2006 official edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 30 the following section: -
3 Section 31. Massachusetts EBT Farmers' Market Project.
- 4 (a) There shall be within the department, a Massachusetts EBT Farmers' Market Project.
- 5 (b) The department shall provide a wired EBT machine to all approved department of agricultural
6 resources farmers' markets, regardless of their monthly EBT sales.
- 7 (c) The department shall make available to eligible farmers' markets wireless point-of-service
8 devices for processing electronic benefit transfer transactions, and reimburse the market for
9 other costs associated with electronic benefit transfer transactions, including cellular
10 communication costs, point of service device maintenance costs, and transaction fees.
- 11 (d) Farmers' markets eligible for wireless devices from the department shall be at locations without
12 access to electricity, as confirmed by the department of agricultural resources.
- 13 (e) The department shall develop a uniform scrip system to be used in conjunction with a wireless
14 point of service device for transacting food stamp purchases at farmers' markets.

15 (f) The department shall provide a food stamp recipient with a list of participating farmers' markets
16 and a brochure explaining the scrip system each spring.

17 SECTION 2. The department shall notify farmers' markets of the creation of the Project and invite
18 markets to apply to participate. The department shall promulgate regulations establishing an
19 application process for markets interested in obtaining a wireless point of service device and detailing
20 the criteria for the selection of markets, including the viability of the use of wireless technology at the
21 market location, and the food stamp recipient population density in the area. The department shall not
22 require a market to demonstrate a minimum level of food stamp sales as part of its initial eligibility
23 determination, but may consider a market's level of food stamp sales when reviewing an applicant's
24 renewal application.

25 SECTION 3. The program established herein shall not be adopted until the Executive Office of Health and
26 Human Services certifies it has obtained federal approval of the uniform scrip system developed in
27 section 1(e) from the United States Department of Agriculture.

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