

HOUSE BILL No. 6040

April 13, 2010, Introduced by Reps. Haase, Sheltroun, Miller, Hammel, Byrnes, Ebli, Valentine, Gregory, Smith, Segal, Stanley, Geiss, Robert Jones, Warren, Young, Bledsoe, Bettie Scott, LeBlanc, Melton, Cushingberry, Switalski, Slezak, Barnett, Liss, Nerat, Griffin, Scripps, Meadows, Johnson, Byrum, Durhal, Jackson, Womack, Kennedy, Haugh, Slavens, Constan, Polidori, Terry Brown, Espinoza, Hansen, Neumann, McDowell, Spade, Lahti, Lindberg, Mayes, Kandrevas, Clemente, Corriveau, Coulouris, Donigan, Lisa Brown, Tlaib, Stamas, Daley, Calley, Hildenbrand, Rocca, Ball, Opsommer and Huckleberry and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program and procedures of administering that program; to provide for methods for certain farm product producers to access school-related food programs; to provide for the setting of standards for qualification for the grant program; to provide for certain powers and duties for the department of agriculture; and to provide for the dissemination of certain information to schools and farm product producers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "farm-
2 to-school grant act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the Michigan department of agriculture.

5 (b) "Farm product" means that term as defined in section 2 of
6 the Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472.

1 (c) "Grant applicant" means any K-12 school or a consortium of
2 schools, a school district or a consortium of school districts, or
3 a technical assistance provider.

4 (d) "Technical assistance provider" means any person
5 determined by the department to be skilled and qualified in
6 assisting a grant applicant in fulfilling the purpose of a grant
7 awarded under this act by the department.

8 Sec. 3. (1) The department shall establish a farm-to-school
9 grant program to award local grants to grant applicants designed to
10 aid the grant applicants in developing relationships with local
11 farmers and producers. Such relationships should encourage grant
12 applicants to purchase farm products from local farmers and
13 producers for use at K-12 schools.

14 (2) The department may accept money from state appropriations,
15 federal grant programs, private donations, or any other source to
16 fund the program.

17 (3) Grant applicants may apply to the department for a grant
18 to fund equipment, resources, training, or materials that will help
19 to increase the use of local farm products in a school food service
20 program.

21 (4) A grant shall not exceed \$15,000.00 per grant applicant.

22 (5) The department shall work with and utilize existing
23 programs and organizations to develop and implement the
24 opportunities for producers of farm products to increase their
25 market through selling their farm products to schools and school
26 districts.

27 Sec. 4. The department shall, in conjunction with grantees,

1 make an effort to identify local producers of farm products,
2 processors, and suppliers and work with grantees to disseminate
3 information on food procurement procedures available to schools and
4 school districts to help both producers and schools to access local
5 farm products. The department shall cooperate with commodity
6 groups, growers, and producer organizations to utilize existing
7 web-based marketing tools.

8 Sec. 5. The department, in consultation with producers of farm
9 products, school districts, and schools, may promulgate rules under
10 the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201
11 to 24.328, to establish the criteria for awarding grants and for
12 the administration of this act.