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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: Yes

Committee meeting of the Senate Economic Growth Committee: "The Committee will receive testimony from invited guests concerning the state of agriculture and the economy in New Jersey," December 15, 2022 (<https://hdl.handle.net/10929/109454>)

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 51, *approved May 8, 2023*
Assembly, No. 4132 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” and
2 amending P.L.2011, c.10 and P.L.2014, c.39.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.1) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
10 Department of Education, shall coordinate with farmers in the State,
11 the New Jersey Farm to School Network or its successor entity, public,
12 private, and charter schools and their food services, and other
13 interested and relevant organizations and groups, as determined by the
14 Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education, to
15 establish :

16 (1) an annual week of promotional events to be known as "Jersey
17 Fresh Farm to School Week **["** The week shall **"]** " to be celebrated
18 each year throughout the State with the holding of relevant
19 promotional events during the last week of September; and

20 (2) an annual week ²**["for classroom activities to"]** , during such
21 week as may be designated by the Department of Agriculture, in
22 cooperation with the Department of Education, which shall² be known
23 as "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy ²**["Week"]** Week," to encourage
24 classroom activities² to be celebrated each year throughout the State
25 by ²**["designating a children’s book and developing activities"]**
26 providing sample educational resources, including, but not limited to,
27 resources² that highlight how agricultural products provide the
28 necessary ingredients for meals ²**["during the third week of March"]**².

29 b. "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" shall highlight and
30 promote the value and importance of New Jersey agriculture and fresh
31 foods produced in New Jersey, and the value and importance of fresh
32 farm foods for children, their general health, and their success in
33 school. The promotional events shall be provided to:

34 (1) children through school breakfast, lunch, and snack programs
35 and in the classroom;

36 (2) community groups, churches, and service organizations;

37 (3) the public at large at farms and community farmers markets;
38 and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **["thus"]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AAN committee amendments adopted December 12, 2022.

²Senate SEG committee amendments adopted February 16, 2023.

1 (4) other organizations or groups or at other locations in the State
2 determined by the Department of Agriculture to be beneficial for the
3 success of promoting the value and importance of New Jersey
4 agriculture and fresh foods produced in New Jersey.

5 c. "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" shall highlight², at a
6 minimum,² the importance of agriculture and² [teach]² how the
7 agricultural products in the State provide the necessary ingredients for
8 meals² [through classroom activities and a focus on the designated
9 children's book. The name of the designated children's book and the
10 recommended classroom activities shall be provided to teachers in
11 kindergarten, first, and second grade.] . The Department of
12 Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall
13 make available sample educational resources for appropriate grade
14 levels based on their connection to the New Jersey Student Learning
15 Standards.²

16 (cf: P.L.2011, c.10, s.1)

17
18 2. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2) is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 2. a. The Department of Agriculture shall develop a "New Jersey
21 Farm to School Program" and a "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
22 Program" and, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
23 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations for
24 its implementation, including, but not necessarily limited to, rules and
25 regulations that:

26 (1) provide encouragement for schools that participate in school
27 meal programs to expand or improve their kitchen facilities to allow
28 for the daily production of meals that incorporate more fresh, locally
29 grown or produced farm produce, fruit or other products;

30 (2) establish a bidding matrix that provides for school purchases of
31 New Jersey-grown food and allows schools to adopt price preferences
32 for local agricultural and farm products; [and]

33 (3) in conjunction and cooperation with the Department of
34 Education, provide for the incorporation and coordination of school
35 curricula with information about:

36 (a) New Jersey agriculture;

37 (b) the importance and significance of farms and farmers to New
38 Jersey's economy, culture, history, and quality of life; [and]² and²

39 (c) the health value of eating fresh farm foods and locally grown
40 produce and fruits ; and

41 ²[(d) the crops and animals in New Jersey that provide the
42 necessary ingredients for meals;

43 (4) designate a children's book each year that shows how
44 agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals, that
45 is targeted for children in kindergarten, first, and second grade;

1 (5) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade to
2 read the designated book during classroom instruction during "New
3 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

4 (6) (4)² encourage additional classroom activities during "New
5 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need not
6 be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include
7 farmers.

8 b. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the
9 Department of Education, shall develop a training program with
10 emphasis on the theme of "Farm to School" and shall offer this
11 program to schools, teachers, and other event providers.

12 c. (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish a "New
13 Jersey Farm to School" website that shall be designed to:

14 (a) provide opportunities for the establishment of purchasing
15 networks between and among farmers, distributors, and schools or
16 school districts;

17 (b) facilitate the development and refinement of promotional
18 events in association with "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" and
19 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

20 (c) provide for the dissemination of information about, and the
21 website-based promotion of, these and other related events.

22 The department shall include on the "New Jersey Farm to School"
23 website a copy of any public contract or other written agreement for
24 the purchase of fresh foods and the provision thereof to school
25 children, which has been entered into and successfully implemented by
26 any school or school district in the State.

27 (2) The department shall post, in a prominent location on the
28 homepage of its Internet website, a hyperlink that provides visitors
29 with direct access to the "New Jersey Farm to School" website
30 established pursuant to this subsection.

31 (cf: P.L.2014, c.37, s.1)

32
33 3. Section 1 of P.L.2014, c.39 (C.4:10-25.2a) is amended to
34 read as follows:

35 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
36 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
37 providing support to help fund the "New Jersey Farm to School
38 Program¹["¹"] and the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
39 Program¹,"¹ established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10
40 (C.4:10-25.2)¹[", which encourages schools to purchase produce
41 from local farmers to incorporate in school meals throughout the
42 growing season, **[and]** to increase the amount of local fresh
43 produce available for consumption by students during the school
44 day , and to teach how agricultural products provide the necessary
45 ingredients for meals]¹.

46 (cf: P.L.2014, c.39, s.1)

A4132 [2R]

4

1 4. This act shall take effect immediately ²and shall first apply
2 to the first school year beginning after the date of enactment².

3

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5

6

7

Establishes NJ Agricultural Literacy Week.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4132

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Conaway

SYNOPSIS

Establishes NJ Agricultural Literacy Week.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/13/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" and
2 amending P.L.2011, c.10 and P.L.2014, c.39.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
10 Department of Education, shall coordinate with farmers in the State,
11 the New Jersey Farm to School Network or its successor entity,
12 public, private, and charter schools and their food services, and
13 other interested and relevant organizations and groups, as
14 determined by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of
15 Education, to establish :

16 (1) an annual week of promotional events to be known as
17 "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week **【.**" The week shall **】** " to be
18 celebrated each year throughout the State with the holding of
19 relevant promotional events during the last week of September; and

20 (2) an annual week for classroom activities to be known as
21 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" to be celebrated each year
22 throughout the State by designating a children's book and
23 developing activities that highlight how agricultural products
24 provide the necessary ingredients for meals, during the third week
25 of March .

26 b. "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" shall highlight and
27 promote the value and importance of New Jersey agriculture and
28 fresh foods produced in New Jersey, and the value and importance
29 of fresh farm foods for children, their general health, and their
30 success in school. The promotional events shall be provided to:

31 (1) children through school breakfast, lunch, and snack
32 programs and in the classroom;

33 (2) community groups, churches, and service organizations;

34 (3) the public at large at farms and community farmers markets;
35 and

36 (4) other organizations or groups or at other locations in the State
37 determined by the Department of Agriculture to be beneficial for
38 the success of promoting the value and importance of New Jersey
39 agriculture and fresh foods produced in New Jersey.

40 c. "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" shall highlight the
41 importance of agriculture and teach how the agricultural products in
42 the State provide the necessary ingredients for meals through
43 classroom activities and a focus on the designated children's book.
44 The name of the designated children's book and the recommended

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 classroom activities shall be provided to teachers in kindergarten,
2 first, and second grade.

3 (cf: P.L.2011, c.10, s.1)

4

5 2. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 2. a. The Department of Agriculture shall develop a "New
8 Jersey Farm to School Program" and a "New Jersey Agricultural
9 Literacy Program" and, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
10 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and
11 regulations for its implementation, including, but not necessarily
12 limited to, rules and regulations that:

13 (1) provide encouragement for schools that participate in school
14 meal programs to expand or improve their kitchen facilities to allow
15 for the daily production of meals that incorporate more fresh,
16 locally grown or produced farm produce, fruit or other products;

17 (2) establish a bidding matrix that provides for school purchases
18 of New Jersey-grown food and allows schools to adopt price
19 preferences for local agricultural and farm products; **[and]**

20 (3) in conjunction and cooperation with the Department of
21 Education, provide for the incorporation and coordination of school
22 curricula with information about:

23 (a) New Jersey agriculture;

24 (b) the importance and significance of farms and farmers to
25 New Jersey's economy, culture, history, and quality of life; **[and]**

26 (c) the health value of eating fresh farm foods and locally grown
27 produce and fruits ; and

28 (d) the crops and animals in New Jersey that provide the
29 necessary ingredients for meals;

30 (4) designate a children's book each year that shows how
31 agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals,
32 that is targeted for children in kindergarten, first, and second grade;

33 (5) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade
34 to read the designated book during classroom instruction during
35 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

36 (6) encourage additional classroom activities during "New
37 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need
38 not be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may
39 include farmers .

40 b. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the
41 Department of Education, shall develop a training program with
42 emphasis on the theme of "Farm to School" and shall offer this
43 program to schools, teachers, and other event providers.

44 c. (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish a "New
45 Jersey Farm to School" website that shall be designed to:

46 (a) provide opportunities for the establishment of purchasing
47 networks between and among farmers, distributors, and schools or
48 school districts;

1 (b) facilitate the development and refinement of promotional
2 events in association with "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" and
3 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

4 (c) provide for the dissemination of information about, and the
5 website-based promotion of, these and other related events.

6 The department shall include on the "New Jersey Farm to
7 School" website a copy of any public contract or other written
8 agreement for the purchase of fresh foods and the provision thereof
9 to school children, which has been entered into and successfully
10 implemented by any school or school district in the State.

11 (2) The department shall post, in a prominent location on the
12 homepage of its Internet website, a hyperlink that provides visitors
13 with direct access to the "New Jersey Farm to School" website
14 established pursuant to this subsection.

15 (cf: P.L.2014, c.37, s.1)

16

17 3. Section 1 of P.L.2014, c.39 (C.4:10-25.2a) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
20 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
21 providing support to help fund the "New Jersey Farm to School
22 Program," and the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program"
23 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2),
24 which encourages schools to purchase produce from local farmers
25 to incorporate in school meals throughout the growing season,
26 **[and]** to increase the amount of local fresh produce available for
27 consumption by students during the school day , and to teach how
28 agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals.

29 (cf: P.L.2014, c.39, s.1)

30

31 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

32

33

34

STATEMENT

35

36 This bill would designate the third week of March as "New
37 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week."

38 The bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation
39 with the Department of Education, to establish a "New Jersey
40 Agricultural Literacy Week" and a "New Jersey Agricultural
41 Literacy Program."

42 The bill provides that the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
43 Week" would be celebrated by designating a children's book and
44 developing activities that highlight how agricultural products
45 provide the necessary ingredients for meals. The name of the
46 designated children's book and the recommended classroom
47 activities would be provided to teachers in kindergarten, first, and
48 second grade.

1 The bill provides that "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
2 Program" would be established in conjunction with the current
3 "New Jersey Farm to School Program." In addition to the
4 provisions of rules and regulations established for the New Jersey
5 Farm to School Program, the bill would require the Department of
6 Agriculture to adopt, in conjunction and cooperation with the
7 Department of Education, rules and regulations that:

8 1) provide for the incorporation and coordination of school
9 curricula with information about the crops and animals in New
10 Jersey that provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

11 2) designate a children's book each year, targeted for children in
12 kindergarten, first, and second grade, that shows how agricultural
13 products provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

14 3) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade to
15 read the designated book during classroom instruction during "New
16 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

17 4) encourage additional classroom activities during "New Jersey
18 Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need not be
19 limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include
20 farmers.

21 The bill also would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit
22 and accept contributions from private and public sources for the
23 purpose of providing support to help fund the "New Jersey
24 Agricultural Literacy Program."

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4132

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4132.

As amended by the committee, this bill would designate the third week of March as "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week."

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to establish a "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" and a "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program."

The bill provides that the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" would be celebrated by designating a children's book and developing activities that highlight how agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals. The name of the designated children's book and the recommended classroom activities would be provided to teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade.

The bill provides that "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program" would be established in conjunction with the current "New Jersey Farm to School Program." In addition to the provisions of rules and regulations established for the New Jersey Farm to School Program, the bill would require the Department of Agriculture to adopt, in conjunction and cooperation with the Department of Education, rules and regulations that:

1) provide for the incorporation and coordination of school curricula with information about the crops and animals in New Jersey that provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

2) designate a children's book each year, targeted for children in kindergarten, first, and second grade, that shows how agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

3) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade to read the designated book during classroom instruction during "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

4) encourage additional classroom activities during "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need not be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include farmers.

The bill also would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of providing support to help fund the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program."

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to make a technical change to remove an unnecessary and grammatically problematic provision.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4132

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4132 (1R) with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to designate an annual week as “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” At minimum, this week would highlight the importance of agriculture and how the agricultural products in this State provide the necessary ingredients for meals. To encourage classroom activities related to this week, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to make available sample educational resources for appropriate grade levels based on their connection to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program” to support the implementation of the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” Under the bill, the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program” would be established in conjunction with the current “New Jersey Farm to School Program.” As part of the rules and regulations established for the New Jersey Farm to School Program, the bill also requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules and regulations that encourage additional classroom activities during “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week,” which activities may include, but need not be limited to, personal stories from farmers.

The bill would also allow the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of providing support to help fund the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program.”

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3426, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” would occur on an annual week designated by the

Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education. As introduced, the week would have been observed on the third week of March.

The committee amendments also revise the types of educational activities that would be used to celebrate the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” As amended, the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Education, would encourage classroom activities by making available sample educational resources for appropriate grade levels based on their connection to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. As introduced, the bill would have required the development of certain classroom activities and the designation of a children’s book that would have been provided to teachers in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. The amendments also clarify that the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” may highlight certain other considerations not specifically identified in the bill.

The committee amendments also limit the scope of the rules and regulations that are required to be adopted for the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program.” As amended, these rules and regulations would only be required to encourage additional classroom activities during “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week,” which may include, but need not be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include farmers.

Additionally, the committee amendments revise the effective date of the bill to clarify that the bill would first apply to the first school year beginning after the date of enactment.

SENATE, No. 3426

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pennacchio

SYNOPSIS

Establishes NJ Agricultural Literacy Week.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/16/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” and
2 amending P.L.2011, c.10 and P.L.2014, c.39.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
10 Department of Education, shall coordinate with farmers in the State,
11 the New Jersey Farm to School Network or its successor entity,
12 public, private, and charter schools and their food services, and
13 other interested and relevant organizations and groups, as
14 determined by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of
15 Education, to establish :

16 (1) an annual week of promotional events to be known as
17 "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week **【.**" The week shall **】** " to be
18 celebrated each year throughout the State with the holding of
19 relevant promotional events during the last week of September; and

20 (2) an annual week for classroom activities to be known as
21 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" to be celebrated each year
22 throughout the State by designating a children’s book and
23 developing activities that highlight how agricultural products
24 provide the necessary ingredients for meals, during the third week
25 of March .

26 b. "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" shall highlight and
27 promote the value and importance of New Jersey agriculture and
28 fresh foods produced in New Jersey, and the value and importance
29 of fresh farm foods for children, their general health, and their
30 success in school. The promotional events shall be provided to:

31 (1) children through school breakfast, lunch, and snack
32 programs and in the classroom;

33 (2) community groups, churches, and service organizations;

34 (3) the public at large at farms and community farmers markets;
35 and

36 (4) other organizations or groups or at other locations in the State
37 determined by the Department of Agriculture to be beneficial for
38 the success of promoting the value and importance of New Jersey
39 agriculture and fresh foods produced in New Jersey.

40 c. "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week" shall highlight the
41 importance of agriculture and teach how the agricultural products in
42 the State provide the necessary ingredients for meals through
43 classroom activities and a focus on the designated children’s book.
44 The name of the designated children’s book and the recommended

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 classroom activities shall be provided to teachers in kindergarten,
2 first, and second grade.

3 (cf: P.L.2011, c.10, s.1)

4

5 2. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 2. a. The Department of Agriculture shall develop a "New
8 Jersey Farm to School Program" and a "New Jersey Agricultural
9 Literacy Program" and, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
10 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and
11 regulations for its implementation, including, but not necessarily
12 limited to, rules and regulations that:

13 (1) provide encouragement for schools that participate in school
14 meal programs to expand or improve their kitchen facilities to allow
15 for the daily production of meals that incorporate more fresh,
16 locally grown or produced farm produce, fruit or other products;

17 (2) establish a bidding matrix that provides for school purchases
18 of New Jersey-grown food and allows schools to adopt price
19 preferences for local agricultural and farm products; **[and]**

20 (3) in conjunction and cooperation with the Department of
21 Education, provide for the incorporation and coordination of school
22 curricula with information about:

23 (a) New Jersey agriculture;

24 (b) the importance and significance of farms and farmers to
25 New Jersey's economy, culture, history, and quality of life; **[and]**

26 (c) the health value of eating fresh farm foods and locally grown
27 produce and fruits ; and

28 (d) the crops and animals in New Jersey that provide the
29 necessary ingredients for meals;

30 (4) designate a children's book each year that shows how
31 agricultural products provide the necessary ingredients for meals,
32 that is targeted for children in kindergarten, first, and second grade;

33 (5) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade
34 to read the designated book during classroom instruction during
35 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

36 (6) encourage additional classroom activities during "New
37 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need
38 not be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may
39 include farmers .

40 b. The Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the
41 Department of Education, shall develop a training program with
42 emphasis on the theme of "Farm to School" and shall offer this
43 program to schools, teachers, and other event providers.

44 c. (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish a "New
45 Jersey Farm to School" website that shall be designed to:

46 (a) provide opportunities for the establishment of purchasing
47 networks between and among farmers, distributors, and schools or
48 school districts;

1 (b) facilitate the development and refinement of promotional
2 events in association with "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" and
3 "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

4 (c) provide for the dissemination of information about, and the
5 website-based promotion of, these and other related events.

6 The department shall include on the "New Jersey Farm to
7 School" website a copy of any public contract or other written
8 agreement for the purchase of fresh foods and the provision thereof
9 to school children, which has been entered into and successfully
10 implemented by any school or school district in the State.

11 (2) The department shall post, in a prominent location on the
12 homepage of its Internet website, a hyperlink that provides visitors
13 with direct access to the "New Jersey Farm to School" website
14 established pursuant to this subsection.

15 (cf: P.L.2014, c.37, s.1)

16

17 3. Section 1 of P.L.2014, c.39 (C.4:10-25.2a) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
20 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
21 providing support to help fund the "New Jersey Farm to School
22 Program~~],]~~" and the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program,"
23 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2)~~],~~
24 which encourages schools to purchase produce from local farmers
25 to incorporate in school meals throughout the growing season, and
26 to increase the amount of local fresh produce available for
27 consumption by students during the school day~~].~~

28 (cf: P.L.2014, c.39, s.1)

29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33 STATEMENT

34

35 This bill would designate the third week of March as "New
36 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week."

37 The bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation
38 with the Department of Education, to establish a "New Jersey
39 Agricultural Literacy Week" and a "New Jersey Agricultural
40 Literacy Program."

41 The bill provides that the "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
42 Week" would be celebrated by designating a children's book and
43 developing activities that highlight how agricultural products
44 provide the necessary ingredients for meals. The name of the
45 designated children's book and the recommended classroom
46 activities would be provided to teachers in kindergarten, first, and
47 second grade.

1 The bill provides that "New Jersey Agricultural Literacy
2 Program" would be established in conjunction with the current
3 "New Jersey Farm to School Program." In addition to the
4 provisions of rules and regulations established for the New Jersey
5 Farm to School Program, the bill would require the Department of
6 Agriculture to adopt, in conjunction and cooperation with the
7 Department of Education, rules and regulations that:

8 1) provide for the incorporation and coordination of school
9 curricula with information about the crops and animals in New
10 Jersey that provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

11 2) designate a children's book each year, targeted for children in
12 kindergarten, first, and second grade, that shows how agricultural
13 products provide the necessary ingredients for meals;

14 3) encourage teachers in kindergarten, first, and second grade to
15 read the designated book during classroom instruction during "New
16 Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week"; and

17 4) encourage additional classroom activities during "New Jersey
18 Agricultural Literacy Week", which may include, but need not be
19 limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include
20 farmers.

21 The bill also would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit
22 and accept contributions from private and public sources for the
23 purpose of providing support to help fund the "New Jersey
24 Agricultural Literacy Program."

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3426

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3426 with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to designate an annual week as “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” At minimum, this week would highlight the importance of agriculture and how the agricultural products in this State provide the necessary ingredients for meals. To encourage classroom activities related to this week, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of Education, to make available sample educational resources for appropriate grade levels based on their connection to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program” to support the implementation of the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” Under the bill, the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program” would be established in conjunction with the current “New Jersey Farm to School Program.” As part of the rules and regulations established for the New Jersey Farm to School Program, the bill also requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules and regulations that encourage additional classroom activities during “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week,” which activities may include, but need not be limited to, personal stories from farmers.

The bill would also allow the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of providing support to help fund the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program.”

As amended and reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4132 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” would occur on an annual week designated by the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Department of

Education. As introduced, the week would have been observed on the third week of March.

The committee amendments also revise the types of educational activities that would be used to celebrate the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week.” As amended, the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Education, would encourage classroom activities by making available sample educational resources for appropriate grade levels based on their connection to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. As introduced, the bill would have required the development of certain classroom activities and the designation of a children’s book that would have been provided to teachers in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. The amendments also clarify that the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week” may highlight certain other considerations not specifically identified in the bill.

The committee amendments also limit the scope of the rules and regulations that are required to be adopted for the “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Program.” As amended, these rules and regulations would only be required to encourage additional classroom activities during “New Jersey Agricultural Literacy Week,” which may include, but need not be limited to, personal stories from volunteers which may include farmers.

Additionally, the committee amendments revise the effective date of the bill to clarify that the bill would first apply to the first school year beginning after the date of enactment.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

05/8/2023

TRENTON – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

- S-142/A-4341 (Diegnan, Pou/Freiman, Moriarty, Mosquera)** - Modernizes business filing statutes to include entity conversion and domestication
- S-435/A-392 (Smith, Greenstein/Danielsen)** - Authorizes certain local authorities to distribute live recordings of certain public hearings in lieu of transcript requirement
- S-660/A-2438 (Oroho, Gopal/Wirths, DeAngelo, Space)** - Establishes that "100 percent Disabled Veterans" are not required to submit to MVC certain documentation to renew park privileges
- S-1033/A-2682 (Vitale, Ruiz/Mukherji, Benson, McKnight)** - Establishes "Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Long-Term Advisory Commission" in DHS
- S-2396/A-3810 (Madden, Zwicker/Moen, Mosquera, Danielsen)** - Provides for oversight and improvement of administration of unemployment compensation
- S-2423/A-3746 (Pou/McKeon, Calabrese)** - Allows local government deferred compensation plans to invest in collective investment trusts
- A-179/S-752 (Carter, Moen, Sumter/Lagana, Greenstein)** - Requires DEP to make certain information regarding water purveyors available on its Internet website
- A-1463/S-1810 (Lopez, Speight, McKnight/Ruiz, Singleton)** - Clarifies penalties for certain violations of pretrial release; directs prosecutor to provide written notice of release to v
- A-1791/S-3306 (DeAngelo, Verrelli, McKnight/Turner, Greenstein)** - Establishes "Career and Technical Education Scholar Awards" to annually recognize outstanding career and technical education students
- A-3494/S-2381 (Dancer, Moriarty, Haider/Diegnan)** - Allows license plate frame to obscure certain parts of permanent or temporary license plate under certain conditions
- A-3946/S-340 (Quijano, Calabrese, Carter/Singleton, Turner)** - Decouples State tax provisions from federal prohibition on cannabis business deductions
- A-4132/S-3426 (Stanley, Jaffer, Atkins/Cruz-Perez, Turner)** - Establishes NJ Agricultural Literacy Week
- A-4184/S-2827 (Tully/Greenstein, Turner)** - Requires DCA to allow hiring of information technology and cybersecurity professionals pursuant to shared service incentive programs
- ACS for A-4756/S-3262 (Spearman, Wimberly, Reynolds-Jackson/Burgess, Ruiz)** - Requires Division of Children's System of Care to establish training program for employees of emergency shelters for homeless
- A-4836/S-3417 (Speight, Atkins, Wimberly/Greenstein, Stanfield)** - Requires Office of Emergency Management to incorporate into State Emergency Operations Plan framework to address cybersecurity incidents
- A-4935/S-3335 (Benson, Spearman, Haider/Johnson, Diegnan)** - Concerns electronic transmission of crash reports
- Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bill:
- S-3110/A-4783 (Smith, Codey/McKeon, Kennedy, Chaparro) - CONDITIONAL** - Requires sellers of real property and landlords to make certain notifications regarding flooding