

54A:9-25.36
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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LAWS OF: 2014 **CHAPTER:** 38

NJSA: 54A:9-25.36 (Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens programs)

BILL NO: A2641 (Substituted for S1903)

SPONSOR(S) Space and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 20, 2014

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Agriculture and Natural Resources

SENATE: Education

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 26, 2014

SENATE: June 23, 2014

DATE OF APPROVAL: August 25, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (first reprint enacted)

A2641

SPONSOR’S STATEMENT (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill):	Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	
ASSEMBLY:	Yes
SENATE:	Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, **may possibly** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No

S1903

SPONSOR’S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill)	Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	
ASSEMBLY:	No
SENATE:	Yes
FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Guadagno signs laws offering food for thought," The Times, 8-26-14

"New Jersey trying to boost Farm-to-School program," The Press of Atlantic City, 8-26-14

"Farm-to-school bills signed into law," The Philadelphia Inquirer, 8-26-14

LAW/RWH

P.L.2014, CHAPTER 38, *approved August 25, 2014*
Assembly, No. 2641 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning voluntary contributions through gross income
2 tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens
3 programs, supplementing Chapter 9 of Title 54A of the New
4 Jersey Statutes.

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

8
9 1. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a
10 special fund to be known as the “New Jersey Farm to School and
11 School Garden Fund.”

12 b. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the
13 taxpayer’s New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the
14 taxpayer’s refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited in
15 the special fund.

16 c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection
17 or administration attributable to this act may be deducted from
18 receipts collected pursuant to this act, as determined by the Director
19 of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of
20 Taxation. The State Treasurer shall deposit net contributions
21 collected pursuant to this section to the “New Jersey Farm to School
22 and School Garden Fund.”

23 d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds
24 deposited in the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden
25 Fund” established pursuant to this section to the New Jersey
26 Department of Agriculture for use in support of its Farm to School
27 program ¹**[, including]** and grants for¹ the development and
28 expansion of ¹the Farm to School program and¹ school gardens
29 activities.

30
31 2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable
32 years beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment.

33
34 _____
35
36 Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross
37 income tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens
38 programs.

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted June 9, 2014.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2641

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Fiocchi and C.A.Brown

SYNOPSIS

Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/23/2014)

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22 and School Garden Fund.”

23 d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds
24 deposited in the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden
25 Fund” established pursuant to this section to the New Jersey
26 Department of Agriculture for use in support of its Farm to School
27 program, including the development and expansion of school
28 gardens activities.

29
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately and apply to taxable
31 years beginning on or after January 1 next following enactment.

32
33
34 STATEMENT

35
36 This bill establishes the “New Jersey Farm to School and School
37 Garden Fund” and provides for a designation on the State gross
38 income tax return that will permit taxpayers to make voluntary
39 contributions to the fund to support farm to school and school
40 gardens initiatives in the Department of Agriculture’s Farm to
41 School program.

42 The program, developed by the Department of Agriculture in
43 conjunction with the Department of Education, offers information
44 and training on farm to school issues, including school garden
45 activities, to teachers, schools and others.

46 Farm to school is the practice of sourcing local food for school
47 cafeterias, so that students have access to fresh, nutritious and
48 seasonal food, while also supporting local and regional farmers,

1 improving childhood nutrition, and providing related opportunities
2 for students to learn about agriculture, health, and nutrition.
3 Curricula and activities related to school gardens help students learn
4 firsthand about where food comes from, the science underlying
5 farming, the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables, and
6 fosters a greater understanding of the environment and its
7 importance to agriculture.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2641

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2014

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2641.

This bill establishes the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden Fund” and provides for a designation on the State gross income tax return that will permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to the fund to support farm to school and school garden initiatives in the Department of Agriculture’s Farm to School program.

The program, developed by the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Department of Education, offers information and training on farm to school issues, including school garden activities, to teachers, schools and others.

Farm to school is the practice of sourcing local food for school cafeterias, so that students have access to fresh, nutritious and seasonal food, while also supporting local and regional farmers, improving childhood nutrition, and providing related opportunities for students to learn about agriculture, health, and nutrition. Curricula and activities related to school gardens help students learn firsthand about where food comes from, the science underlying farming, and the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables, and fosters a greater understanding of the environment and its importance to agriculture.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2641

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2014

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2641 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden Fund” and provides for a designation on the State gross income tax return to permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to the fund to support the Department of Agriculture’s Farm to School program and grants for the development and expansion of the Farm to School program and school garden activities. The department’s Farm to School program offers information and training on farm to school issues, including school garden activities, to teachers, schools, and others.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the appropriated funds may be used for grants for the development and expansion of the Farm to School program and school gardens activities.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1903, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

SENATE, No. 1903

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2 tax returns to support farm to school and school gardens
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2 for students to learn about agriculture, health, and nutrition.
3 Curricula and activities related to school gardens help students learn
4 firsthand about where food comes from, the science underlying
5 farming, the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables, and
6 fosters a greater understanding of the environment and its
7 importance to agriculture.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1903

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2014

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1903 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill establishes the “New Jersey Farm to School and School Garden Fund” and provides for a designation on the State gross income tax return to permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to the fund to support the Department of Agriculture’s Farm to School program and grants for the development and expansion of the Farm to School program and school garden activities. The department’s Farm to School program offers information and training on farm to school issues, including school garden activities, to teachers, schools, and others.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the appropriated funds may be used for grants for the development and expansion of the Farm to School program and school gardens activities.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2641, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

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[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [Press Releases](#) > 2014 > [Acting Governor Guadagno Signs Bill Package Supporting Student Access To Healthy Foods](#)

Acting Governor Guadagno Signs Bill Package Supporting Student Access To Healthy Foods

Monday, August 25, 2014

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State of New Jersey OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

"Farm to School" Program Sources New Jersey Produce to Area Schools

Trenton, NJ – Taking action to increase student access to healthy, locally-grown foods, Acting Governor Kim Guadagno today signed five bills at Terhune Orchards in Mercer County that support and streamline New Jersey's "Farm to School" program.

"Children who live in the Garden State should have ready access to the more than 100 varieties of produce grown by our state's 9,000-plus farms," said Acting Governor Kim Guadagno. "By signing these bipartisan bills, we are nurturing a program that puts more of these healthy, locally-grown foods directly into the hands of our kids while supporting New Jersey's third-largest industry: agriculture."

The package of unanimously passed bills supporting the "Farm to School" program raise awareness of the program, create potential revenue streams for continued development and create a clearinghouse web portal to allow farmers to better connect with schools and food banks. The bills that were signed today include:

A-156 (Space, McHose, Andrzejczak, Riley/Barnes, Oroho) – Requires the Department of Agriculture to post on its website certain information regarding the state's Farm to School program

A-2641 (Space, Andrzejczak, Dancer, Wilson/Barnes) – Provides for voluntary contributions on gross income tax returns to support Farm to School and School Gardens programs

A-2642 (Andrzejczak, Riley, Space, Dancer/Barnes, Oroho) – Allows contributions to the New Jersey Farm to School program

A-2643 (Space, Riley, Dancer, Wilson, Andrzejczak/Barnes, Oroho) – Establishes "Best in New Jersey 'Farm to School' Awards Program" to annually recognize the best Farm to School programs implemented by a school or school district

A-2644 (Dancer, Andrzejczak, Space, Wilson/Beach, Beck) – Directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a clearinghouse website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast programs, school lunch programs and food banks

"I'm proud to sign these bills, which fuel a program that fuels our kids," added Acting Governor Guadagno.

More than 250 New Jersey schools participate in a "Farm to School" program, connecting school nutrition with local farms, improving the quality of school meals and strengthening relationships in the community. The program also helps children understand where their food comes from through the integration of food-related education into the

curriculum and hands-on learning activities such as school gardening, farm visits and culinary classes.

"The Farm Bureau has been a steadfast supporter of the Farm to School and recent School Gardens programs," said Ryck Suydam, President of the New Jersey Farm Bureau. "We think they substantially improve the understanding of food nutrition among the student population and also provide the potential for an expansion of our great Jersey Fresh produce onto the menus of school lunches and other meals provided by school districts. It's a win-win for nutrition and local farmers. We applaud Acting Governor Guadagno for signing these bills."

Following the bill signing, the Acting Governor toured Terhune Orchards, which provides produce to more than a dozen schools in the area, adding great local and fresh food choices to the cafeteria offerings. Since 1975, the Mount Family has owned and operated the Orchards. Terhune grows more than 35 crops on 200 acres, including about 30 varieties of apples, 28 varieties of peaches and 7 varieties of pears, and offers a "Pick-Your-Own" program for apples, berries, flowers and pumpkins. The farm is open to the public year-round and hosts seasonal festivals throughout the year.

"We are so happy to welcome Acting Governor Guadagno to Terhune Orchards today," said Pam Mount, owner of Terhune Orchards. "For the last forty years we have hosted educational tours and camps for school-aged children. Every year, more than 10,000 kids learn how to grow fruits and vegetables and how New Jersey farms work to provide them the healthy foods they eat."

In 2011, Governor Christie signed legislation to establish the last week of September as "Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week" in New Jersey to highlight and promote the value of New Jersey agriculture and fresh foods, as well as the value and importance of fresh farm foods for children, their health and success in school.

Agriculture is New Jersey's third largest industry. In 2012, the state's 9,071 farms on 715,057 acres generated sales totaling \$1.14 billion. The horticulture industry is one of New Jersey's top agriculture commodities. The industry includes nursery, greenhouse, sod and Christmas trees and generated \$444.8 million in sales in 2012.

Acting Governor Guadagno was joined by, among others, Senator Steven V. Oroho (R-Morris, Sussex and Warren), Senator Shirley K. Turner (D-Hunterdon and Mercer), Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (D-Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem), Assemblywoman Donna Simon (R-Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset), New Jersey Department of Agriculture Secretary Douglas Fisher and New Jersey Department of Education Acting Commissioner David Hespe.

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