

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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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/KR

P.L.2014, CHAPTER 39, *approved August 25, 2014*
Assembly, No. 2642 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning contributions to the ¹**[**New Jersey “Farm to
2 School” program,**]** “New Jersey Farm to School Program,”¹ and
3 supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.
4

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

8 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
9 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
10 providing support to help fund the ¹**[**New Jersey “Farm to School”
11 program**]** “New Jersey Farm to School Program,” established
12 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2011, c.10 (C.4:10-25.2)¹, which
13 encourages schools to purchase produce from local farmers to
14 incorporate in school meals throughout the growing season, and to
15 increase the amount of local fresh produce available for
16 consumption by students during the school day.
17

18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
19
20
21
22

23 Allows contributions to “New Jersey Farm to School Program.”

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 SEG committee amendments adopted May 5, 2014.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblywoman CELESTE M. RILEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman PARKER SPACE

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywoman
Lampitt, Assemblyman C.A.Brown and Assemblywoman Caride**

SYNOPSIS

Allows contributions to NJ "Farm to School" program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/21/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning contributions to the New Jersey “Farm to
2 School” program, and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
9 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
10 providing support to help fund the New Jersey “Farm to School”
11 program, which encourages schools to purchase produce from local
12 farmers to incorporate in school meals throughout the growing
13 season, and to increase the amount of local fresh produce available
14 for consumption by students during the school day.

15

16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

17

18

19

STATEMENT

20

21 This bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept
22 private and public monetary contributions to help fund the New
23 Jersey “Farm to School” program.

24 The object of the New Jersey “Farm to School” program is to
25 provide agricultural products to school food service departments to
26 serve healthy meals to improve student nutrition, provide health and
27 nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and
28 support local farmers.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 10, 2014

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2642.

This bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept private and public monetary contributions to help fund the New Jersey “Farm to School” program.

The object of the New Jersey “Farm to School” program is to provide agricultural products to school food service departments to serve healthy meals to improve student nutrition, provide health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and support local farmers.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2642

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2642.

As amended and reported, this bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept private and public monetary contributions to help fund the “New Jersey Farm to School Program” (program). The objective of the program is to provide agricultural products to school food service departments to serve healthy meals to improve student nutrition, provide health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and support local farmers.

The committee amended the bill to cite the law establishing the program and make a correction in punctuation.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2642 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1908, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE, No. 1908

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Allows contributions to NJ “Farm to School” program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2014)

1 AN ACT concerning contributions to the New Jersey “Farm to
2 School” program, and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
9 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
10 providing support to help fund the New Jersey “Farm to School”
11 program, which encourages schools to purchase produce from local
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25 provide agricultural products to school food service departments to
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27 nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and
28 support local farmers.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1908

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 2014

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1908.

As amended and reported, this bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and accept private and public monetary contributions to help fund the “New Jersey Farm to School Program” (program). The objective of the program is to provide agricultural products to school food service departments to serve healthy meals to improve student nutrition, provide health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and support local farmers.

The committee amended the bill to cite the law establishing the program and make a correction in punctuation.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1908 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2642, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

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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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