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|---|-----|
| <b>FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:</b>           | No  |
| <b>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:</b>         | Yes |
| <b>VETO MESSAGE:</b>                        | No  |
| <b>GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:</b> | Yes |

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| <b>REPORTS:</b> | No |
|-----------------|----|

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| <b>HEARINGS:</b> | No |
|------------------|----|

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| <b>NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:</b> | 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 41, *approved August 25, 2014*

Assembly, No. 2644 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing a farmer clearinghouse website for use by  
2 school breakfast programs <sup>1</sup>~~and~~<sup>1</sup> school lunch programs,  
3 <sup>1</sup>and food banks, and supplementing Title <sup>1</sup>~~18A~~<sup>1</sup> 4 of the  
4 <sup>1</sup>~~New Jersey~~<sup>1</sup> Revised Statutes.

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

8  
9 1. a. The Department of Agriculture <sup>1</sup>, in consultation with the  
10 <sup>2</sup>~~Departments~~<sup>2</sup> Department of Education and <sup>2</sup>the Department of  
11 Health, <sup>1</sup> shall <sup>2</sup>~~develop and~~<sup>2</sup> establish <sup>2</sup>and maintain <sup>1</sup>, or partner  
12 with a nonprofit organization to <sup>2</sup>~~develop and~~<sup>2</sup> establish <sup>2</sup>and  
13 maintain <sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to  
14 provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs  
15 <sup>1</sup>~~and~~<sup>1</sup> school lunch programs <sup>1</sup>, and food banks throughout the  
16 State. The website shall <sup>2</sup>~~provide a forum for farmers with~~  
17 produce and dairy products <sup>1</sup>~~available for use by school breakfast~~  
18 and lunch programs<sup>1</sup> to connect with any school <sup>1</sup>~~or~~<sup>1</sup> school  
19 district<sup>1</sup>, or food bank<sup>1</sup> include a list of schools, school districts,  
20 and food banks<sup>2</sup> with a need for <sup>1</sup>~~the~~<sup>1</sup> produce or dairy products  
21 <sup>1</sup>~~for its~~ <sup>2</sup>available for use by school breakfast or lunch  
22 <sup>1</sup>~~program~~ programs or for donations by a food bank<sup>1</sup>, organized  
23 by county, with hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or  
24 food bank website<sup>2</sup>.

25 b. The Department of Agriculture may adopt, pursuant to the  
26 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
27 seq.), any rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
28 this act.

29  
30 2. This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup>~~immediately~~ 12 months after the  
31 date of enactment<sup>1</sup>.

32  
33  
34  
35  
36 Directs the Dept. of Agriculture to establish a clearinghouse  
37 website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by  
38 school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks.

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AWC committee amendments adopted March 10, 2014.

<sup>2</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted May 5, 2014.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2644

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Assemblyman GILBERT "WHIP" L. WILSON**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman McHose**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Dept. of Agriculture to establish clearinghouse website for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/11/2014)**

1 AN ACT establishing a farmer clearinghouse website for use by  
2 school breakfast programs and school lunch programs, and  
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall develop and establish  
9 a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce  
10 and dairy products to school breakfast programs and school lunch  
11 programs throughout the State. The website shall provide a forum  
12 for farmers with produce and dairy products available for use by  
13 school breakfast and lunch programs to connect with any school or  
14 school district with a need for the produce or dairy products for its  
15 school breakfast or lunch program.

16 b. The Department of Agriculture may adopt, pursuant to the  
17 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
18 seq.), any rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
19 this act.

20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

22

23

24

#### STATEMENT

25

26 This bill directs the Department of Agriculture to develop and  
27 establish a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to  
28 provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs  
29 and school lunch programs throughout the State. The intent of this  
30 bill is to create a website similar to existing “for sale by owner”  
31 websites to provide a forum for farmers with produce and dairy  
32 products to connect with any school or school district with a need  
33 for the produce or dairy products for its school breakfast or lunch  
34 program.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 2644**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 10, 2014

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 2644.

As amended by the committee, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Departments of Education and Health, to develop and establish, or partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State. The intent of this bill is to create a website similar to existing “for sale by owner” websites to provide a forum for farmers with produce and dairy products to connect with any school, school district, or food bank with a need for the produce or dairy products for a school breakfast or lunch program or donation by the food bank.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to direct the Department of Agriculture to consult with the Departments of Education and Health to develop and establish the website required under the provisions of the bill. The bill was amended by the committee to allow the Department of Agriculture to partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish the website. The committee amended the bill to require that the website serve as a clearinghouse for food banks as well as schools and school districts, as originally provided in the bill. The committee also amended the bill to require that the provisions of the bill would take effect 12 months after the date of its enactment.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2644

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 2, 2014

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** 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.
- Type of Impact:** Potential State Expenditure Increase
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and Department of Health.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| <b>Fiscal Impact</b> | <b><u>Year 1</u></b>                        | <b><u>Year 2</u></b> | <b><u>Year 3</u></b> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>State Cost</b>    | Indeterminate increase – See comments below |                      |                      |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and managing a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers, food banks, schools, and school districts. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.
- According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and manage the website.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2644 (1R) of 2014 directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to develop and establish, or

partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for schools, school districts, food banks, and farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State. The intent of this bill is to create a website similar to existing “for sale by owner” websites to provide a forum for farmers with produce and dairy products to connect with any school, school district, or food bank with a need for the produce or dairy products for a school breakfast or lunch program or donation to the food bank. The provisions of the bill would take effect 12 months after the date of enactment.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and manage the website.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and managing a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers, food banks, schools, and school districts. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.

*Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources*

*Analyst: Joseph A. Hroncich  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).



# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 2644**

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. 2644 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to develop and establish, or partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State.

The committee amended the bill to: 1) remove the requirement that the website provide a forum for farmers; 2) specify that the website is to include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce and dairy products, organized by county; and 3) provide that the list contain hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website, to make it easy for farmers to reach out to these entities to sell their products. The amendments also make a reference correction.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 2644 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 1964, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2644**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JUNE 4, 2014

### **SUMMARY**

- Synopsis:** Directs the Dept. 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.
- Type of Impact:** Potential State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and Department of Health.

#### **Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

| <b>Fiscal Impact</b> | <b><u>Year 1</u></b>                        | <b><u>Year 2</u></b> | <b><u>Year 3</u></b> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>State Cost</b>    | Indeterminate increase – See comments below |                      |                      |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and maintaining a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs, and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could potentially incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.
- According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and maintain the website.

### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

Assembly Bill No. 2644 (2R) of 2014 directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to establish and maintain, or

partner with a nonprofit organization to establish and maintain, a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State. The bill requires the website to include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce or dairy products, organized by county, with hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website. The provisions of the bill would take effect 12 months after the date of enactment.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and maintain the website.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and maintaining a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs, and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could potentially incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.

*Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources*

*Analyst: Joseph A. Hroncich  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2644**

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 5, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2644 (2R).

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to establish and maintain, or partner with a nonprofit organization to establish and maintain, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State.

The website shall include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce or dairy products, organized by county, with hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website.

The bill will take effect 12 months after the date of enactment.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1964 (1R), as also reported by the committee.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific data are available to estimate the cost of establishing and managing a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could incur some website establishment and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.

According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to establish and manage the website.

**SENATE, No. 1964**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**216th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED APRIL 28, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs the Dept. 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.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S1964 BEACH

2

1 AN ACT establishing a farmer clearinghouse website for use by  
2 school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food  
3 banks, and 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. a. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the  
9 Departments of Education and Health, shall develop and establish,  
10 or partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish, a  
11 website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce  
12 and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch  
13 programs, and food banks throughout the State. The website shall  
14 provide a forum for farmers with produce and dairy products to  
15 connect with any school, school district, or food bank with a need  
16 for produce or dairy products available for use by school breakfast  
17 or lunch programs or for donations by a food bank.

18 b. The Department of Agriculture may adopt, pursuant to the  
19 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
20 seq.), any rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of  
21 this act.

22  
23 2. This act shall take effect 12 months after the date of  
24 enactment.

25  
26  
27 STATEMENT

28  
29 As amended by the committee, this bill directs the Department of  
30 Agriculture, in consultation with the Departments of Education and  
31 Health, to develop and establish, or partner with a nonprofit  
32 organization to develop and establish, a website, to serve as a  
33 clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to  
34 school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks  
35 throughout the State. The intent of this bill is to create a website  
36 similar to existing “for sale by owner” websites to provide a forum  
37 for farmers with produce and dairy products to connect with any  
38 school, school district, or food bank with a need for the produce or  
39 dairy products for a school breakfast or lunch program or donation  
40 by the food bank.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 1964**

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. 1964.

As amended and reported, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to develop and establish, or partner with a nonprofit organization to develop and establish, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State.

The committee amended the bill to: 1) remove the requirement that the website provide a forum for farmers; 2) specify that the website is to include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce and dairy products, organized by county; and 3) provide that the list contain hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website, to make it easy for farmers to reach out to these entities to sell their products. The amendments also make a reference correction.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1964 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2644 (1R), which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 1964 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 4, 2014

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Directs the Dept. 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.
- Type of Impact:** Potential State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, and Department of Health.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

| <b>Fiscal Impact</b> | <b><u>Year 1</u></b>                        | <b><u>Year 2</u></b> | <b><u>Year 3</u></b> |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>State Cost</b>    | Indeterminate increase – See comments below |                      |                      |

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and maintaining a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs, and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could potentially incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.
- According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and maintain the website.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 1964 (1R) of 2014 directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to establish and maintain, or



partner with a nonprofit organization to establish and maintain, a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State. The bill requires the website to include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce or dairy products, organized by county, with hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website. The provisions of the bill would take effect 12 months after the date of enactment.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to develop, establish, and maintain the website.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific information or data is available to estimate the cost of developing, establishing and maintaining a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs, and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could potentially incur some website development and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.

*Section: Environment, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources*

*Analyst: Joseph A. Hroncich  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1964**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 5, 2014

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1964 (1R).

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the Department of Education and the Department of Health, to establish and maintain, or partner with a nonprofit organization to establish and maintain, a website, to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to provide produce and dairy products to school breakfast programs, school lunch programs, and food banks throughout the State.

The website shall include a list of schools, school districts, and food banks with a need for produce or dairy products, organized by county, with hyperlinks to each individual school, school district, or food bank website.

The bill will take effect 12 months after the date of enactment.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2644 (2R), as also reported by the committee.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) cannot quantify the fiscal impact of this bill. No specific data are available to estimate the cost of establishing and managing a website to serve as a clearinghouse for farmers to offer produce and dairy products for use by school breakfast and lunch programs and food banks. However, the OLS estimates the Department of Agriculture could incur some website establishment and maintenance costs to comply with the provisions of the bill.

According to informal information provided by the Department of Agriculture, if the department cannot partner with a nonprofit organization, the cost to the department would exceed \$100,000. Also, the department would need to outsource the work since the department and State Office of Information Technology do not have the resources to establish and manage the website.

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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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