

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2643

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2014

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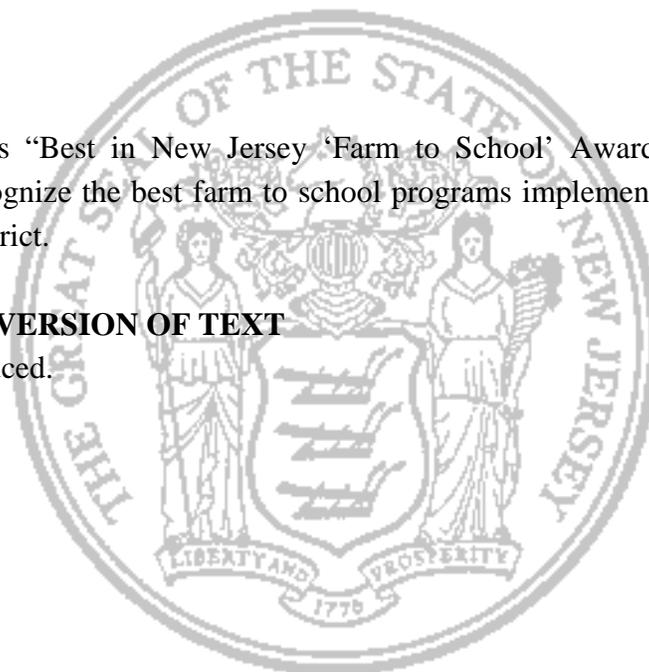
**Assemblywomen McHose, Jasey, Assemblymen C.A.Brown, Clifton,  
Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Fiocchi, Rumpf, Assemblywomen  
Casagrande, Gove, Assemblyman Coughlin, Senators P.Barnes, III,  
Oroho, Beck and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

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.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2014)

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

3

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the  
8 Department of Education and any agricultural or farming  
9 organization as determined appropriate by the Department of  
10 Agriculture, shall establish an awards program to be known as the  
11 “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program.”

12 The program shall annually recognize schools or school districts  
13 with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of farm-to-  
14 school principles into their school meal and snack programs,  
15 including, but not limited to:

16 (1) innovative use of local farm produce and products in a  
17 school;

18 (2) outstanding and consistent high levels of nutritional balance  
19 and excellence in the use of farm produce and products in a school;  
20 and

21 (3) quantifiable increases in pupil awareness of the contribution  
22 of farmers and farms to the quality of a school’s meal or snack  
23 program.

24 b. The department shall establish an application procedure and  
25 criteria and guidelines for the eligibility, nomination, and judging of  
26 applications for the awards program. Applications shall be  
27 evaluated using performance criteria, including but not limited to:

28 (1) incorporation of department farm-to-school principles and  
29 measurable increase and documentation of the use of farm produce  
30 and products in the school or school district; (2) education and  
31 outreach concerning the nutritional importance of fresh produce and  
32 food products and the connection of a school or school district to  
33 farms and farmers in the State; (3) leadership and innovation by the  
34 school or school district; (4) exceedance of nutritional requirements  
35 of the school breakfast program or school lunch program; and (5)  
36 increased participation in the school breakfast program or school  
37 lunch program.

38 c. The department shall post the names of the recipients of the  
39 “Best in New Jersey ‘Farm to School’ Awards” prominently on the  
40 department’s website, and shall recognize the recipients through the  
41 award of a certificate, a press announcement, or another form of  
42 recognition deemed appropriate to highlight the achievements of  
43 these recipients. The department may coordinate with the  
44 Department of Education and any agricultural or farming  
45 organization as determined appropriate by the Department of  
46 Agriculture, in recognizing the award recipients.

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48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of Education and any other agricultural or farming organization as determined appropriate by the Department of Agriculture, to establish an awards program to be known as the “Best ‘Farm to School’ Awards Program” for annual recognition of schools or school districts with outstanding achievements in the incorporation of farm-to-school principles into their school meal and snack programs.