

ASSEMBLY, No. 3740

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Farm to Public Institution of Higher Education Program.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Farm to Public Institution of
2 Higher Education Program,” and supplementing Title 4 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

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

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

18 (2) establish a bidding matrix that provides for public institutions
19 of higher education to purchase New Jersey grown food and allows
20 them to adopt price preferences for local agricultural and farm
21 products;

22 (3) in conjunction with the Secretary of Higher Education, develop
23 ways in which public institutions of higher education can increase the
24 procurement of locally grown or produced farm produce, fruit or other
25 products for use in meals; and

26 (4) create a public directory for New Jersey farmers with contact
27 information of purchasing agents at public institutions of higher
28 education, and another public directory for purchasers with
29 information about qualified New Jersey farmers and distributors.

30 b. (1) The Department of Agriculture shall establish a “New
31 Jersey Farm to Public Institution of Higher Education” website that
32 shall be designed to:

33 (a) provide opportunities for the establishment of purchasing
34 networks between and among farmers, distributors, and public
35 institutions of higher education;

36 (b) facilitate the development and refinement of promotional
37 events in association with “Jersey Fresh Farm to School Week”; and

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

40 The department shall include on the “New Jersey Farm to Public
41 Institution of Higher Education” website a copy of any public contract
42 or other written agreement for the purchase of fresh foods and the
43 provision thereof to students, which has been entered into and
44 successfully implemented by a public institution of higher education.

45 (2) The department shall post, in a prominent location on the
46 homepage of its Internet website, a hyperlink that provides visitors
47 with direct access to the “New Jersey Farm to Public Institution of
48 Higher Education” website established pursuant to this subsection.

1 c. The Secretary of Agriculture may solicit and accept
2 contributions from private and public sources for the purpose of
3 providing support to help fund the “New Jersey Farm to Public
4 Institution of Higher Education Program,” which encourages public
5 institutions of higher education to purchase produce from local
6 farmers to incorporate in meals throughout the growing season, and
7 to increase the amount of local fresh produce available for
8 consumption by students.

9 d. As used in this section, “public institution of higher
10 education” means Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, the
11 State colleges or universities, and public research universities
12 established pursuant to chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
13 Statutes.

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15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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18 STATEMENT 19

20 This bill would establish the “New Jersey Farm to Public
21 Institution of Higher Education Program” in the Department of
22 Agriculture. The bill requires the department to adopt regulations
23 that: (1) provide encouragement for public institutions of higher
24 education that provide meal programs to expand or improve their
25 kitchen facilities to allow for the daily production of meals that
26 incorporate more fresh, locally grown or produced farm produce, fruit
27 or other products; (2) establish a bidding matrix that provides for
28 public institutions of higher education to purchase New Jersey grown
29 food and allows them to adopt price preferences for local agricultural
30 and farm products; (3) in conjunction with the Secretary of Higher
31 Education, develop ways in which public institutions of higher
32 education can increase the procurement of locally grown or produced
33 farm produce, fruit or other products for use in meals; and (4) create a
34 public directory for New Jersey farmers with contact information of
35 purchasing agents at public institutions of higher education, and
36 another public directory for purchasers with information about
37 qualified New Jersey farmers and distributors.

38 The bill also requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a
39 “New Jersey Farm to Public Institution of Higher Education Program”
40 website that provides information on the program, and includes a copy
41 of any public contract or other written agreement for the purchase of
42 fresh foods and the provision thereof to students, which has been
43 entered into and successfully implemented by a public institution of
44 higher education.

45 Finally, the bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to solicit and
46 accept contributions from private and public sources for the purpose
47 of providing support to help fund the “New Jersey Farm to Public
48 Institution of Higher Education Program,” which encourages public

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- 2 farmers to incorporate in meals throughout the growing season, and
- 3 to increase the amount of local fresh produce available for
- 4 consumption by students.