



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 529

February Session, 2006

Senate Bill No. 375

Senate, April 18, 2006

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT-GROWN FOOD IN SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) There is established,
2 within the Department of Education, a farm to school program. In
3 consultation with the Department of Agriculture farm to school
4 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, the program shall
5 facilitate and promote the purchase of Connecticut-grown farm
6 products by school districts, individual schools and other educational
7 institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.
8 Through the farm to school program, the department shall (1)
9 encourage and solicit school districts, individual schools and other
10 educational institutions under its jurisdiction to purchase Connecticut-
11 grown farm products, (2) develop and regularly update a database of
12 interested purchasers, including the types and amounts of products
13 the purchasers are interested in, (3) in consultation with the
14 Department of Agriculture farm to school program, facilitate
15 purchases from local farmers by the interested districts, schools and

16 other educational institutions, (4) provide outreach, guidance and
17 training to districts, schools and school food service directors
18 concerning the value of and procedure for purchasing and
19 incorporating into their regular menus Connecticut-grown farm
20 products, (5) in consultation with the Department of Agriculture farm
21 to school program, arrange for local, regional and state-wide events
22 where potential purchasers and farmers can interact, and (6) in
23 consultation with the Department of Agriculture farm to school
24 program, arrange for interaction between students and farmers,
25 including field trips to farms and school presentations by farmers.

26 (b) The Department of Education, in consultation with the
27 Department of Agriculture, organizations concerning school food
28 service, education, health and nutrition, farming and other interested
29 organizations, shall establish a week-long promotional event, to be
30 known as Connecticut-Grown for Connecticut Kids Week, in late
31 September or early October each year, that will promote Connecticut
32 agriculture and foods to children through school meal and classroom
33 programs, at farms, farmers' markets and other locations in the
34 community.

35 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) There is established, within the
36 Department of Agriculture, a farm to school program. In consultation
37 with the Department of Education farm to school program established
38 pursuant to section 1 of this act, the program shall facilitate and
39 promote the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products by farms to
40 school districts, individual schools and other educational institutions
41 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. Through the
42 farm to school program, the Department of Agriculture shall (1)
43 encourage and solicit Connecticut farmers to sell their products to
44 Connecticut schools, (2) develop and regularly update a database of
45 farmers interested in selling their products to Connecticut schools,
46 including the types and amounts of products the farmers want to sell
47 and the time periods during which the farmers want to sell, (3) in
48 consultation in with the Department of Education farm to school
49 program, facilitate purchases from local farmers by such interested

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	100,000	100,000
Department of Agriculture	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill results in a cost to the State Department of Education of \$100,000 due to the establishment of a farm-to-school program. These funds have been included in the budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee for FY 07. There is no cost to the Department of Agriculture in establishing a farm-to-school program as it already exists.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 375*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT-GROWN FOOD IN SCHOOLS.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill establishes farm-to-school programs within both the departments of education (SDE) and agriculture (DOAg). The programs must be run in consultation with one another to promote and facilitate the purchase of Connecticut-grown farm products by school districts, schools, and other educational institutions under SDE's jurisdiction. Through the programs:

1. SDE must encourage and solicit districts, schools, and educational institutions to purchase, and DOAg must encourage Connecticut farmers to sell to these entities, Connecticut-grown farm products;
2. SDE must develop and update a database of interested purchasers and DOAg must create the same for interested sellers;
3. in consultation with one another, the departments must facilitate purchases from local farmers by interested schools, districts, or institutions;
4. DOAg must provide outreach and guidance to farmers on the the value of, and procedure for, selling their products to schools and SDE must do the same for districts, schools, and other food service directors, and provide training for purchasing these products and incorporating them into their regular menus;
5. in consultation with one another, the departments must arrange for local, regional, and state-wide events where potential

purchasers and farmers can interact; and

6. in consultation with one another, the departments must arrange for interaction between students and farmers, including field trips and farmer presentations at schools.

The bill also requires SDE to establish the Connecticut-Grown for Connecticut Kids Week to promote Connecticut agriculture and foods to children through school meal and classroom programs, at farms, farmers' markets, and other community locations. The week-long promotional event must be (1) established in consultation with DOAg, and school food service, education, health and nutrition, farming and other interested organizations and (2) held every year in late September or early October.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/10/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/04/2006)