



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 27

February Session, 2016

Senate Bill No. 76

Senate, March 10, 2016

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. KENNEDY of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-215d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) Not later than July 1, 1991, the State Board of Education, in
4 consultation with the Department of Public Health, the School Food
5 Service Association and the Connecticut Dietetic Association, shall,
6 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 54, adopt regulations concerning
7 nutrition standards for breakfasts and lunches provided to students by
8 local and regional boards of education.

9 (b) Not later than October 1, 2017, the regulations described in
10 subsection (a) of this section shall be amended, in accordance with the
11 provisions of chapter 54, to facilitate purchases from local farmers by
12 local and regional boards of education, in furtherance of the state's
13 farm to school program established in section 22-38d.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2016*) Any bid submitted by a food
15 service management company in response to a request for proposals or
16 bid solicitation by a local or regional board of education that is posted
17 to the State Contracting Portal and that relates to such local or regional
18 board of education's school nutrition program shall include
19 information detailing the consistency of such bid with the state's farm
20 to school program, established in section 22-38d of the general statutes
21 and the ways in which such bid facilitates the purchase of products
22 from local farmers by the local or regional board of education, as
23 described in section 22-38d of the general statutes. In the award of any
24 such contract, all other factors being equal, preference shall be given to
25 the proposal or bid that facilitates such purchase of products from
26 local farmers by the local or regional board of education, as described
27 in section 22-38d of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-215d
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Potential Cost	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill requires local and regional school districts to give a preference to the RFP or bid for a school nutrition program that promotes the purchase of local farm products. This may result in a potential cost to various districts, as an RFP or bid that promotes the purchase of local farm products may not be the lowest qualified bid. In 2015 local and regional school districts spent approximately \$7.2 million on local food, with the average school district spending 5% of their school budget on local products.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the terms of the RFP or bid process.

Sources: <https://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov/find-your-school-district/connecticut>

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 76*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a food service management company to include in its response to a board of education's request for proposal (RFP) or bid solicitation for a school nutrition program how the RFP or bid is consistent with the state's farm to school program and how it facilitates the purchase of products from local farmers. The requirement applies to RFPs and bids posted to the state contracting portal, which the Department of Administrative Services maintains. When awarding a contract, the bill requires giving a preference to the RFP or bid that promotes the purchase of local farm products.

The bill also requires the State Board of Education (SBE), by October 1, 2017, to amend state regulations on nutrition standards for school breakfasts and lunches. The amended regulations must encourage boards of education to purchase food from local farmers to support the state's farm to school program. SBE must adopt the regulations in consultation with the Department of Public Health, the School Food Service Association, and the Connecticut Dietetic Association.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016, except for the regulations provision, which is effective upon passage.

BACKGROUND***Farm to School Program***

PA 06-135, § 21, established Connecticut's farm to school program to encourage the use of Connecticut-grown farm products in school cafeterias. The law requires the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the state Department of Education (SDE), to run the

program to promote the sale of Connecticut-grown farm products by farms to school districts, individual schools, and other educational institutions under SDE's jurisdiction (CGS § 22-38d).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (02/24/2016)