

H.346

Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Shoreham, Ainsworth of Royalton,
Bissonnette of Winooski, Bohi of Hartford, Botzow of Pownal,
Bray of New Haven, Browning of Arlington, Canfield of Fair
Haven, Cheney of Norwich, Clark of Vergennes, Clarkson of
Woodstock, Conquest of Newbury, Courcelle of Rutland City,
Davis of Washington, Edwards of Brattleboro, French of
Shrewsbury, French of Randolph, Greshin of Warren, Haas of
Rochester, Jewett of Ripton, Lanpher of Vergennes, Macaig of
Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Marcotte of Coventry, Martin of
Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, Masland of Thetford,
McAllister of Highgate, McNeil of Rutland Town, Milkey of
Brattleboro, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro,
Morrissey of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Nuovo of
Middlebury, O'Brien of Richmond, Pearce of Richford, Pellett
of Chester, Perley of Enosburg, Potter of Clarendon, Smith of
Mendon, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury,
Sweaney of Windsor, Taylor of Barre City, Till of Jericho, Toll
of Danville, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Webb of Shelburne,
Wilson of Manchester, Wizowaty of Burlington, Zenie of
Colchester and Zuckerman of Burlington

1 Referred to Committee on

2 Date:

3 Subject: Agriculture; competitive grants; farmers' markets; capital
4 appropriations

5 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to establish a competitive grants
6 program to help farmers' markets to enhance or expand their capacity and to
7 pay for the grants from capital appropriations.

8 An act relating to competitive grants program for farmers' markets

9 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

10 Sec. 1. 24 V.S.A. § 5607 is added to read:

11 § 5607. FARMERS' MARKET COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

12 (a) There is established a farmers' market competitive grant program which
13 shall be administered by the agency of agriculture food and markets. Grants
14 shall be made available to a municipality and an organization which operates a
15 farmers' market in the municipality to purchase material improvements or
16 equipment for the purpose of enhancing or expanding the capacity of the
17 market to increase and facilitate public access to fresh, locally grown food
18 products.

19 (b) Grant awards shall be determined by a committee made up of the
20 commissioner of agriculture, food and markets or designee, one person chosen

1 by the Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Vermont, one person chosen
2 by the Vermont Farm Bureau, and one member from the senate committee on
3 institutions and one from the house committee on corrections and institutions
4 chosen by the senate committee on committees and the speaker of the house,
5 respectively.

6 (c) The committee shall select grant recipients based on an applicant's
7 ability to demonstrate broad community support for expansion or enhancement
8 of the program. Grants may be up to \$20,000.00 and shall be matched on a
9 one-to-one basis.

10 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

11 The amount of \$200,000.00 is appropriated from funds raised through
12 bonded debt issuance in FY 2009 to the commissioner of agriculture, food and
13 markets for the farmers' market competitive grants established in Sec. 1 of this
14 act.