

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to which was referred House
3 Bill No. 275 entitled “An act relating to the Farm-to-Plate Investment
4 Program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 330 is amended to read:

8 § 330. THE FARM-TO-PLATE INVESTMENT PROGRAM; CREATION;

9 ~~GOALS~~ OUTCOMES; TASKS; METHODS

10 (a) Creation.

11 (1) The Sustainable Jobs Fund Program ~~in consultation with the~~
12 ~~Vermont Sustainable Agriculture Council~~ shall establish the Vermont Farm-to-
13 Plate Investment Program to fulfill the goals and carry out the tasks described
14 in this section.

15 (2) If at least \$100,000.00 in funding is not made available for the
16 purpose of this section, the Sustainable Jobs Fund Program is encouraged but
17 no longer required to fulfill the provisions of this section.

18 (b) ~~Goals~~ Intended outcomes. The ~~goals~~ intended outcomes of the Farm-
19 to-Plate Investment Program are to:

20 (1) Increase sustainable economic development and create jobs in
21 Vermont’s food and farm sector.

1 (2) ~~Create jobs in the food and farm economy~~ Improve soils, water, and
2 resiliency of the working landscape in the face of climate change.

3 (3) Improve access to healthy local foods for all Vermonters.

4 (c) Tasks.

5 (1) ~~By June 30, 2010, the~~ The Vermont Farm-to-Plate Investment
6 Program shall create a strategic plan for ~~agricultural economic~~ food system
7 development, which may be periodically reviewed and updated, based upon
8 the following:

9 (A) Inventory Vermont’s food system infrastructure by gathering
10 existing data, studies, and analysis about the components of Vermont’s food
11 system, including:

12 (i) ~~The~~ the types of foods produced in Vermont, the number of
13 producers of each type of food, the amount of each type of food produced, and
14 the financial viability of each food-producing sector;

15 (ii) ~~The~~ the types of food processors in Vermont, how much food
16 produced in Vermont is purchased by Vermont processors, and the financial
17 viability of the food processing sector in Vermont;

18 (iii) ~~The~~ the current and potential markets in which Vermont food
19 producers and processors can sell their products;

20 (iv) ~~The~~ the extent of existing agricultural lands that could be
21 expanded and the resources available to expand Vermont’s food production;

1 (v) ~~The~~ the potential for new farmers and food processors to enter
2 the local food economy, the methods for new farmers to acquire land and other
3 farm infrastructure, and the availability and barriers to farm and processing
4 labor; and

5 (vi) ~~The~~ the potential for entirely new local products and the
6 barriers to farmers and processors entering new markets.

7 (B) Identify gaps in the infrastructure and distribution systems and
8 identify ways to address these gaps.

9 (2) The Vermont Farm-to-Plate Investment Program shall ~~seek grant~~
10 ~~funding to support farm-to-table direct marketing, including farmers' markets~~
11 ~~and community-supported agriculture operations and to support regional~~
12 ~~community food hubs~~ provide support for farm and food businesses, including
13 regional food hubs, selling in all types of markets, direct and wholesale, in the
14 State and outside the State.

15 (3) As an ongoing task, the Farm-to-Plate Investment Program shall use
16 the information gathered for the strategic plan and updates to the plan to
17 identify methods and the funding necessary to strengthen the links among
18 producers, processors, and markets, including:

19 (A) ~~Support~~ supporting of the work of existing farm-to-school
20 programs to increase the purchase of local foods by Vermont schools, with a
21 particular emphasis on procurement of nutrient-dense animal foods;

1 (B) supporting the work of the Working Lands Enterprise Board to
2 strategically invest in farm and food businesses;

3 (C) ~~Collaborating~~ collaborating with the Agency of Agriculture,
4 Food and Markets and the Department of Buildings and General Services to
5 increase procurement of local foods in accordance with 6 V.S.A. § 4601.;

6 ~~(C)(D)~~ ~~Collaborating~~ collaborating with the Agency of Agriculture,
7 Food and Markets ~~and the Sustainable Agriculture Council~~ to increase
8 procurement of local foods by businesses and institutions.;

9 ~~(D)(E)~~ ~~Supporting~~ supporting initiatives that improve ~~direct the~~
10 marketing of foods from ~~the farm~~ Vermont producers to ~~the consumer.~~
11 consumers inside the State and outside of the State;

12 (F) supporting education and workforce development initiatives that
13 address skill and labor needs of farm and food businesses; and

14 ~~(E)(G)~~ ~~Informing~~ informing agricultural lenders of the information
15 collected under subdivision (1) of this subsection (c) in order to facilitate
16 availability of ~~agricultural~~ farm and food sector financing.

17 (4) The Farm-to-Plate Investment Program ~~strategic plan~~ Strategic Plan
18 shall also ~~include recommendations regarding~~ establish measurable goals that
19 shall be tracked over the ~~ten-year~~ life of the Plan; methods for the ongoing
20 collection of data necessary to track those goals; plans for updating the Plan as

1 needed; and appropriate methods to track the ongoing economic contribution
2 of the farm and food sector to the Vermont economy.

3 (d) Methods. To accomplish the goals and carry out the ongoing tasks
4 stated in this section, the Vermont Farm-to-Plate Investment Program may:

5 (1) ~~Create~~ create an advisory panel with representatives from the
6 agricultural and business communities;

7 (2) ~~Hire~~ hire or assign staff;

8 (3) ~~Seek~~ seek and accept funds from private and public entities;

9 (4) serve as the administrative support for the Farm-to-Plate Network;

10 and

11 (5) ~~Utilize~~ utilize technical assistance, loans, grants, or other means
12 ~~approved by the Board.~~

13 (e) [Repealed.]

14 **Sec. 2. REPEAL; FARM-TO-PLATE INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

15 10 V.S.A. § 330 (Farm-to-Plate Investment Program) shall be repealed on

16 January 1, 2031.

17 **Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE**

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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4 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative _____

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FOR THE COMMITTEE