

1 H.79

2 Introduced by Representatives Partridge of Windham, Bartholomew of
3 Hartland, Bock of Chester, Fegard of Enosburgh, Graham of
4 Williamstown, Norris of Shoreham, O'Brien of Tunbridge,
5 Smith of New Haven, and Strong of Albany

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Agriculture; farm-to-school; grants; eligibility

9 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide that
10 organizations administering or assisting the development of farm-to-school
11 programs are eligible for grant assistance from the Farm-to-School Program at
12 the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

13 An act relating to eligibility for farm-to-school grant assistance

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

15 Sec. 1. 6 V.S.A. § 4721 is amended to read:

16 § 4721. LOCAL FOODS GRANT PROGRAM

17 (a) There is created in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the
18 Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program to execute, administer, and award
19 local grants for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop farm-to-
20 school programs that will sustain relationships with local farmers and

1 producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of
2 Vermont children, and enhance Vermont's agricultural economy.

3 (b) A school, a school district, a consortium of schools, a consortium of
4 school districts, ~~or a~~ registered or licensed child care ~~providers~~ provider, or an
5 organization administering or assisting the development of farm-to-school
6 programs may apply to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets for a
7 grant award to:

8 (1) fund equipment, resources, training, and materials that will help to
9 increase use of local foods in child nutrition programs;

10 (2) fund items, including local food products, gardening supplies, field
11 trips to farms, gleaning on farms, and stipends to visiting farmers, that will
12 help educators to use hands-on educational techniques to teach children about
13 nutrition and farm-to-school connections;

14 (3) fund professional development and technical assistance, in
15 partnership with the Agency of Education and farm-to-school technical service
16 providers, to help teachers, child nutrition personnel, organizations
17 administering or assisting the development of farm-to-school programs, and
18 members of the farm-to-school community educate students about nutrition
19 and farm-to-school connections and assist schools and licensed or registered
20 child care providers in developing a farm-to-school program; and

1 (4) fund technical assistance or support strategies to increase
2 participation in federal child nutrition programs that increase the viability of
3 sustainable meal programs.

4 (c) The Secretaries of Agriculture, Food and Markets and of Education and
5 the Commissioner of Health, in consultation with farmers, child nutrition staff,
6 educators, organizations administering or assisting the development of farm-to-
7 school programs, and farm-to-school technical service providers jointly shall
8 adopt procedures relating to the content of the grant application and the criteria
9 for making awards.

10 (d) The Secretary shall determine that there is significant interest in the
11 school community before making an award and shall give priority
12 consideration to schools, school districts, and registered or licensed child care
13 providers that are developing farm-to-school connections and education, that
14 indicate a willingness to make changes to their child nutrition programs to
15 increase student access and participation, and that are making progress toward
16 the implementation of the Vermont School Wellness Policy Guidelines
17 developed by the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Agency of
18 Education, and the Department of Health, updated in June 2015 or of the
19 successor of these guidelines.

20 (e) No award shall be greater than \$15,000.00.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

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