

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to which was referred House  
3 Bill No. 79 entitled “An act relating to eligibility for farm-to-school grant  
4 assistance” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and  
5 recommends that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting  
6 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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

8 § 4721. LOCAL FOODS GRANT PROGRAM

9 (a) There is created in the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets the  
10 Rozo McLaughlin Farm-to-School Program to execute, administer, and award  
11 local grants for the purpose of helping Vermont schools develop farm-to-  
12 school programs that will sustain relationships with local farmers and  
13 producers, enrich the educational experience of students, improve the health of  
14 Vermont children, and enhance Vermont’s agricultural economy.

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

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

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

5           (3) fund professional development and technical assistance, in  
6           partnership with the Agency of Education and farm-to-school technical service  
7           providers, to help teachers, child nutrition personnel, organizations  
8           administering or assisting the development of farm-to-school programs, and  
9           members of the farm-to-school community educate students about nutrition  
10          and farm-to-school connections and assist schools and licensed or registered  
11          child care providers in developing a farm-to-school program; and

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

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

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

11 (e) No award shall be greater than \$15,000.00 20 percent of the total annual  
12 amount available for granting, with the exception of awards to service  
13 providers that may exceed the cap at the discretion of the Secretary of  
14 Agriculture, Food and Markets.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.  
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2 (Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE