

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 686**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Smitty Pignatelli***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>2/22/2021</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>	<i>2/23/2021</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>	<i>7th Hampden</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>2/24/2021</i>
<i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Susan L. Moran</i>	<i>Plymouth and Barnstable</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>

<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>First Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>	<i>2/26/2021</i>
<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Patricia A. Duffy</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Brian W. Murray</i>	<i>10th Worcester</i>	<i>3/10/2021</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/15/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>3/18/2021</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>3/24/2021</i>
<i>Jessica Ann Giannino</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/25/2021</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2021</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>	<i>3/29/2021</i>
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>	<i>4/2/2021</i>
<i>Carol A. Doherty</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>	<i>4/12/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 686**

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By Mr. Pignatelli of Lenox, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 686) of Smitty Pignatelli and others for legislation to establish a farm to school grants program within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 556 OF 2019-2020.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**  
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An Act establishing farm to school grants to promote healthy eating and strengthen the agricultural economy.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding, at the end  
2 thereof, the following new section:-

3 Section 37. (a) The department of elementary and secondary education, with input from  
4 the department of early education and care, shall operate a competitive grant program called the  
5 Massachusetts Farm to School Grant Program with the purpose of strengthening the  
6 Massachusetts food economy and improving student health and nutrition. The purpose of the  
7 program is to build the capacity of primary and secondary public schools and licensed childcare  
8 programs to purchase ingredients grown and produced in Massachusetts, prepare scratch-cooked  
9 meals and educate students about the food system.

10 (b) To be eligible for grant funding the department shall require that applicants: (1) be a  
11 public school or licensed child care program located in the commonwealth; (2) provide meals  
12 through the federally funded National School Lunch Program or Child and Adult Care Feeding  
13 Program; and (3) include with their application a letter of agreement with a Massachusetts  
14 farmer, fisherman, or distributor of Massachusetts farm or seafood products that indicates an  
15 existing or anticipated relationship for procuring food, and an estimated annual dollar value of  
16 those purchases.

17 (c) The program shall provide, subject to appropriation, funding for the following  
18 priorities: (1) adequate kitchen equipment used to prepare food for serving in school meals and  
19 snacks including but not limited to local, fresh produce, meats, seafood, and dairy items; (2)  
20 training school kitchen staff in preparing fresh meals using local ingredients and in procuring  
21 such ingredients, and for training educators and other school staff in adding or integrating food  
22 system lessons to their curriculum; and (3) infrastructure and programming for curricular and  
23 extracurricular activities, such as school gardens, for students to learn about agriculture and the  
24 food system.

25 (d) Up to fifteen percent of the funds in each grant may be used for the purchase of foods  
26 raised, grown or produced in Massachusetts, provided that preparation and consumption of these  
27 foods relates to the primary grant activity or expenditure.

28 (e) The department of elementary and secondary education, with input from the  
29 department of early education and care, shall promulgate regulations or guidelines to implement  
30 the program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Said regulations or guidelines

31 promulgated by the department shall include eligibility criteria that promotes geographic, social,  
32 economic, and racial equity in distribution of grant funds.