

HOUSE BILL No. 6594

November 6, 2008, Introduced by Rep. Proos and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program and procedures of administering that program; to provide for methods for certain farm product producers to access school-related food programs; to provide for the setting of standards for qualification for the grant program; to provide for certain powers and duties for the department of agriculture; and to provide for the dissemination of certain information to schools and farm product producers.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "farm-
2 to-school grant act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Department" means the Michigan department of agriculture.

5 (b) "Farm product" means that term as defined in section 2 of
6 the Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472.

1 (c) "Grant applicant" means any K-12 school or a consortium of
2 schools, a school district or a consortium of school districts, or
3 a technical assistance provider as determined by the department.

4 (d) "Technical assistance provider" means any person
5 determined by the department to be skilled and qualified in
6 assisting a grant applicant in fulfilling the purpose of a grant
7 awarded under this act by the department.

8 Sec. 3. (1) The department shall establish a farm-to-school
9 grant program to award local grants to grant applicants designed to
10 aid the grant applicants to develop relationships with local
11 farmers and producers.

12 (2) The department may accept money from state appropriations,
13 federal grant programs, private donations, or any other source to
14 fund the program.

15 (3) Grant applicants may apply to the department for a grant
16 for any of the following:

17 (a) To fund equipment, resources, training, or materials that
18 will help to increase the use of local farm products in a school
19 food service program.

20 (b) To fund items including, but not limited to, local farm
21 products that will aid teachers to use hands-on educational
22 techniques to teach students about nutrition and farm-to-school
23 connections.

24 (c) To provide for professional development and technical
25 assistance to help teachers educate students about nutrition and
26 farm-to-school connections.

27 (4) The department shall determine whether there is

1 significant interest in the school or school district regarding the
2 development of farm-to-school connections and education.

3 (5) A grant shall not exceed \$15,000.00 per grant applicant.

4 (6) The department shall work with and utilize existing
5 programs and organizations to develop and implement the
6 opportunities of farm product producers to increase their market
7 through selling their farm products to schools and school
8 districts.

9 Sec. 4. The department shall, in conjunction with grantees,
10 make an effort to identify local farm product producers,
11 processors, and suppliers and work with grantees to disseminate
12 information on food procurement procedures available to schools and
13 school districts to help both producers and schools to access local
14 farm products. The department shall cooperate with commodity
15 groups, growers, and producer organizations to utilize existing
16 web-based marketing tools.

17 Sec. 5. The department, in consultation with farm product
18 producers, school districts, and schools, may promulgate rules
19 under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL
20 24.201 to 24.328, to establish the criteria for awarding grants and
21 for the administration of this act.