

By: Shapleigh

S.B. No. 1089

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to farm-to-school initiatives.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Sections 12.048 and 12.049 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.048. FARM-TO-SCHOOL COORDINATING TASK FORCE. (a) In this section, "task force" means the farm-to-school coordinating task force.

(b) The task force consists of members appointed by the commissioner, including representatives of:

(1) the department;

(2) the Texas Education Agency;

(3) the Department of State Health Services;

(4) farm organizations;

(5) general academic teaching institutions, as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; and

(6) other relevant public and nonprofit entities.

(c) The commissioner shall designate a member who represents the department to be the chair of the task force. Members serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

(d) The task force shall:

(1) develop a multipartner approach to farm-to-school initiatives in this state;

(2) design nutrition and food education resources to

1 educate students about family farms, local agriculture, and
2 sustainable food systems with a strong focus on fresh, locally
3 produced fruits and vegetables;

4 (3) create useful and practical farm-to-school
5 resources for teachers that are easily incorporated into core
6 curriculum classes and are tied to current curriculum requirements;

7 (4) expand food-focused experiential education
8 efforts;

9 (5) develop a database of available local products for
10 school food service agencies, including contact and purchasing
11 information; and

12 (6) advise the department on the development and
13 administration of the grant programs under Section 12.049.

14 Sec. 12.049. FARM-TO-SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAMS. (a) Subject to
15 available funding, the department shall develop and administer
16 grant programs for school districts to:

17 (1) purchase locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables,
18 and other foods for school lunch and breakfast programs;

19 (2) create and maintain school gardens and conduct
20 extension education activities including farm field trips; and

21 (3) offer support for farm-to-school programs.

22 (b) The department shall adopt rules for the grant programs,
23 including criteria for selecting grant recipients.

24 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable on or after the effective
25 date of this Act, the commissioner of agriculture shall appoint the
26 initial members of the farm-to-school coordinating task force under
27 Section 12.048, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.