

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2602

Introduced by Assembly Member Eggman
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Garcia, Gonzalez, and
Quirk-Silva)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Campos)

February 21, 2014

An act to add Article 10 (commencing with Section 590) to Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to the Farm to School Program.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2602, as amended, Eggman. Farm to School Program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to ensure that the nutrition levels of meals served to schoolage children pursuant to the federal National School Lunch Act be of the highest quality and greatest nutritional value possible.

This bill would establish the Farm to School Program within the Department of Food and Agriculture, to provide for the allocation of grants and technical assistance to school districts and county offices of education for specified purposes, including serving healthy meals in school cafeterias. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to distribute grants of up to \$5,000 per schoolsite to eligible school districts and county offices of education for *specified* purposes, including, among others, food literacy education. The bill would require a school district or county office of education that receives a grant

pursuant to those provisions to comply with specified reporting requirements. The bill would require the secretary to convene an interagency working group on increasing the provision of fresh and nutritious school meals to pupils that includes representatives of the Department of Food and Agriculture, the State Department of Education, and the State Department of Public Health. The bill would make the implementation of the Farm to School Program contingent upon appropriation by the Legislature for those purposes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) The lack of access to nutritious food has led to a rise in
4 obesity among children, which now affects one out of every three
5 children in the United States. Obesity can lead to a variety of health
6 problems, such as type II diabetes, high blood pressure, and
7 elevated cholesterol levels. Farm to School programs could increase
8 access to California grown vegetables and fruits, specifically in
9 urban, low-income, and rural communities.

10 (b) In 2013, federal nutritional standards for foods sold in
11 schools were updated to comply with the improved nutritional
12 standards of the federal Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.
13 In California, 89.1 percent of schools are meeting these new meal
14 standards. However, California schools are still facing obstacles
15 in providing healthy meals to pupils, including a lack of adequate
16 kitchen supplies.

17 (c) Farm to School program funding will provide school districts
18 with the opportunity to update their kitchen supplies to meet new
19 federal nutritional guidelines, increase staff training related to the
20 preparation of fresh foods, educate pupils on nutrition, and prepare
21 a greater amount and variety of fruits and vegetables.

22 SEC. 2. Article 10 (commencing with Section 590) is added
23 to Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1 of the Food and Agricultural
24 Code, to read:

1 Article 10. Farm to School Program

2
3 590. (a) The Farm to School Program is hereby established
4 within the department for the purpose of promoting the objectives
5 specified in subdivision (b) through the allocation of grants and
6 the provision of technical assistance to school districts and county
7 offices of education.

8 (b) “Farm to school program” means a program that connects
9 schools and California farms with the objectives of serving healthy
10 meals in school cafeterias, improving pupil nutrition, and providing
11 agriculture, health, and nutrition educational opportunities.

12 (c) The secretary shall convene an interagency working group
13 on increasing the provision of fresh and nutritious school meals
14 to pupils that includes, but is not limited to, representatives of the
15 Department of Food and Agriculture, the State Department of
16 Education, and the State Department of Public Health. The working
17 group shall advise the secretary on all of the following:

18 (1) Effective and efficient means of encouraging school districts
19 and county offices of education to develop a farm to school
20 program.

21 (2) The availability of state and nonstate resources and technical
22 assistance to help school districts and county offices of education
23 in establishing and maintaining farm to school programs.

24 (d) The secretary shall use existing resources to comply with
25 this section.

26 (e) The State Department of Education and the State Department
27 of Public Health shall use existing resources to comply with
28 subdivision (c).

29 591. (a) An eligible school district or county office of
30 education may apply on behalf of an elementary schoolsite to the
31 department, in a manner determined by the secretary, for a grant
32 to develop and maintain a farm to school program under this article.

33 (b) A school district or county office of education is eligible to
34 apply for the grant if the schoolsite to which the funds will go
35 serves pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1
36 to 6, inclusive, and the school district or county office of education
37 has an average of at least 65 percent of pupils who are eligible to
38 receive free or reduced-price meals.

39 (c) The application, at a minimum, shall include, but is not
40 limited to, the following information:

1 (1) The identity of each school at which a farm to school
2 program is to be located.

3 (2) The intended items of expenditure for the funds received,
4 the overall cost of the items, and other sources of funding, if any.

5 (3) A description of how the funds will be used to meet the
6 objectives of this article.

7 592. The secretary shall distribute the grants awarded to eligible
8 school districts or county offices of education in accordance with
9 the following:

10 (a) The maximum grant for any ~~schools~~ *schoolsite* shall be
11 five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

12 (b) No school district or county office of education shall be
13 awarded more than 10 percent of overall funds unless the secretary
14 determines there is insufficient demand from other county offices
15 of education or school districts.

16 (c) Funds may be used only for the following purposes:

17 (1) The development of salad bars.

18 (2) Staff training related to the preparation of fresh foods.

19 (3) Food literacy education, including, but not limited to, through
20 farms and gardens.

21 (4) Kitchen equipment related to the preparation of fresh foods.

22 593. (a) As a condition of the receipt of funds pursuant to this
23 article, within six months of the final expenditure of funds received
24 pursuant to this article, a school district or county office of
25 education shall report to the secretary, in conjunction with the
26 interagency working group convened pursuant to subdivision (c)
27 of Section 590, in a manner prescribed by the secretary, regarding
28 the use of *the expended* funds.

29 (b) A school district or county office of education may submit
30 one report for all of the schools that have received grants that are
31 under the jurisdiction of the school district or county office of
32 education.

33 594. The implementation of ~~the provisions~~ of this article is
34 contingent upon appropriation of funds by the Legislature for those
35 purposes.