

ASSEMBLY, No. 4149

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTWAN L. MCCLELLAN
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblyman ERIK K. SIMONSEN
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)
Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

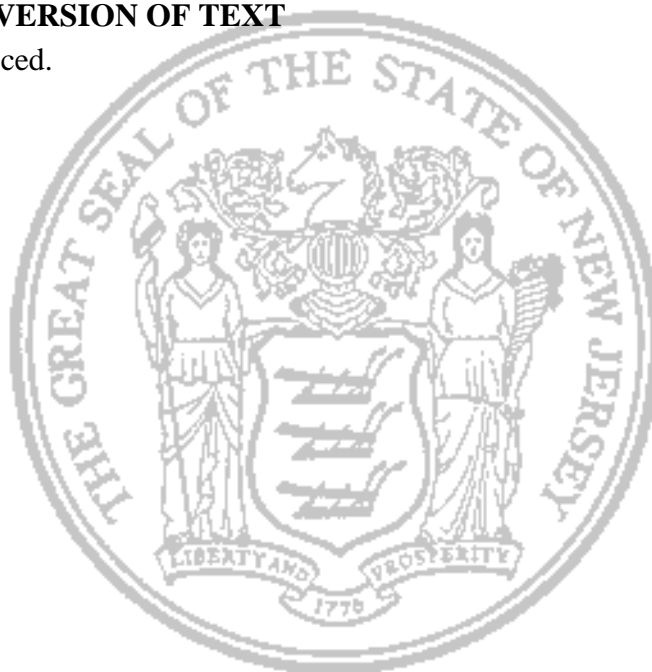
Assemblyman Space, Assemblywomen Stanfield and Dunn

SYNOPSIS

Directs Dept. of Agriculture to purchase agricultural food products from NJ farmers impacted by coronavirus pandemic, and distribute products to school breakfast and lunch programs and food banks; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the purchase of agricultural food products from
2 New Jersey farmers affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and
3 making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall establish a program
9 to purchase agricultural food products from farmers in the State
10 who are unable to sell their agricultural food products due to
11 disruptions in the market or food supply chain caused by the
12 coronavirus pandemic. The department shall pay fair market value
13 for any agricultural food products it purchases from a farmer under
14 the program established pursuant to this section. The department
15 shall donate and distribute any agricultural food products it
16 purchases to free and reduced price school lunch and breakfast
17 programs, and food banks in the State.

18 b. The department shall develop an application process and
19 criteria for farmers, schools, and food banks that wish to participate
20 in the program. The department shall prioritize farmers, schools,
21 and food banks with the greatest need.

22 c. The department shall utilize existing staff and resources to
23 the greatest extent practicable, and may work in consultation with
24 food banks or other nonprofit organizations, to establish and
25 implement the program pursuant to this section.
26

27 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture the
28 sum of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to establish and
29 implement the program pursuant to section 1 of this act. The
30 department may expend up to five percent of the moneys
31 appropriated pursuant to this section for administrative costs
32 associated with the program.
33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
35 31st day after expiration of the Public Health Emergency and State
36 of Emergency declared by the Governor in Executive Order 103 of
37 2020 concerning the Coronavirus pandemic.
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39

40 STATEMENT
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42 This bill would direct the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
43 to establish a program to purchase agricultural food products from
44 farmers in the State who are unable to sell their products due to
45 disruptions in the market or food supply chain caused by the
46 coronavirus pandemic. Under the program, the department would

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1 donate and distribute any agricultural food products it purchases to
2 free and reduced price school breakfast and lunch programs and
3 food banks across the State, based on need. The bill would direct
4 the department, to the greatest extent practicable, to utilize existing
5 staff and resources to implement the program. The department
6 would also be permitted to work in consultation with food banks or
7 other nonprofits to establish and implement the program. The bill
8 would appropriate \$1 million from the General Fund for the
9 program.