

CHAPTER 372

(House Bill 696)

AN ACT concerning

Farm-to-School Program – Activities and Promotional Events

FOR the purpose of establishing the Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture; establishing the purposes of the Program; requiring the Program to establish certain promotional events for certain purposes; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture.

BY adding to

Article – Agriculture

Section 10-1601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 16. Jane Lawton Farm-to-School Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2007 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Agriculture

SUBTITLE 16. JANE LAWTON FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

10-1601.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “FARM PRODUCT” MEANS ANY AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL, VEGETABLE, FRUIT PRODUCT, WHETHER RAW, CANNED, FROZEN, DRIED, PICKLED, OR OTHERWISE PROCESSED, LIVESTOCK, MEATS, MARINE FOOD PRODUCTS, POULTRY, EGGS, DAIRY PRODUCTS, NUTS, HONEY, AND EVERY EDIBLE PRODUCT OF FARM, ORCHARD, GARDEN, OR WATER.

(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE JANE LAWTON FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM.

(B) THERE IS A JANE LAWTON FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

(1) PROMOTING THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS GROWN IN THE STATE TO ~~STATE MARYLAND SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES~~ IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ~~AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS~~;

(2) SOLICITING FARMERS TO SELL THEIR FARM PRODUCTS TO ~~STATE MARYLAND SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES~~;

(3) DEVELOPING AND REGULARLY UPDATING A DATABASE OF FARMERS INTERESTED IN SELLING THEIR FARM PRODUCTS TO ~~STATE MARYLAND SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES~~, INCLUDING THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS OF FARM PRODUCTS THE FARMERS WANT TO SELL AND THE TIME PERIODS THAT THE FARMERS WANT TO SELL;

(4) FACILITATING PURCHASES FROM FARMERS BY INTERESTED ~~STATE MARYLAND SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES~~ IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS ~~AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS~~; AND

(5) PROVIDING OUTREACH AND GUIDANCE TO FARMERS CONCERNING THE VALUE OF AND PROCEDURE FOR SELLING THEIR FARM PRODUCTS TO INTERESTED ~~STATE MARYLAND SCHOOLS AND FACILITIES~~.

(D) (1) THE PROGRAM, IN ~~CONSULTATION~~ PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, ~~THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS~~, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS, AND INTERESTED FARMING ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL ESTABLISH PROMOTIONAL EVENTS THAT PROMOTE STATE AGRICULTURE AND FARM PRODUCTS TO CHILDREN THROUGH SCHOOL MEAL AND CLASSROOM PROGRAMS.

(2) AT LEAST ONE PROMOTIONAL EVENT SHALL:

(I) LAST FOR A PERIOD OF 1 WEEK;

(II) BE KNOWN AS "MARYLAND HOMEGROWN SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK";

(III) PROMOTE STATE AGRICULTURE AND FARM PRODUCTS TO CHILDREN THROUGH SCHOOL MEAL AND CLASSROOM PROGRAMS; AND

(IV) ARRANGE FOR INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND FARMERS, ~~INCLUDING~~ THROUGH PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT MAY INCLUDE FIELD TRIPS TO FARMS AND IN-SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS BY FARMERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.