



## 2009 SENATE BILL 536

February 11, 2010 - Introduced by Senators LASSA, TAYLOR, RISSER, LEHMAN, HANSEN and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives VRUWINK, JORGENSEN, BLACK, BENEDICT, VAN AKKEREN, SUDER, A. OTT, ZEPNICK, GARTHWAITE, ROYS, TURNER, SINICKI, HUBLER, BERCEAU, HEBL, DANOU, RIPP, HRAYCHUCK, HILGENBERG, PASCH, MASON, POPE-ROBERTS, ZIGMUNT, MOLEPSKE JR., STEINBRINK, SMITH, PETROWSKI, PARISI and RADCLIFFE. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Higher Education.

1     **AN ACT to create** 15.137 (3), 20.115 (4) (as), 20.115 (4) (at) and 93.49 of the  
2             statutes; **relating to:** promoting the use of locally grown food in school meals  
3             and snacks and granting rule-making authority.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to promote farm to school programs. A farm to school program seeks to connect schools with nearby farms to provide children with locally produced fresh foods in school meals and snacks, help children develop healthy eating habits, provide nutritional and agricultural education, and improve farmers' incomes. The bill also creates a program for DATCP to provide grants to school districts, nonprofit organizations, and others for the creation and expansion of farm to school programs. The bill establishes a farm to school council to advise DATCP and to report to the legislature about the needs and opportunities for farm to school programs.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

4             **SECTION 1.** 15.137 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

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**SECTION 1**

1           15.137 (3) FARM TO SCHOOL COUNCIL. (a) There is created in the department of  
2 agriculture, trade and consumer protection a farm to school council.

3           (b) The secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall appoint  
4 to the council an employee of the department and shall appoint farmers, experts in  
5 child health, school food service personnel, and other persons with interests in  
6 agriculture, nutrition, and education.

7           (c) The secretary of health services shall appoint to the council an employee of  
8 the department of health services.

9           (d) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint to the council an  
10 employee of the department of public instruction.

11           **SECTION 2.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert  
12 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

				<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
13					
14	<b>20.115</b>	<b>Agriculture, trade and consumer</b>			
15		<b>protection, department of</b>			

16 (4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

17	(as)	Farm to school grants	GPR	A	-0-	-0-
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18	(at)	Farm to school program adminis-				
19		tration	GPR	A	-0-	-0-

20           **SECTION 3.** 20.115 (4) (as) of the statutes is created to read:

21           20.115 (4) (as) *Farm to school grants*. The amounts in the schedule for farm  
22 to school grants under s. 93.49 (3).

23           **SECTION 4.** 20.115 (4) (at) of the statutes is created to read:

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1           20.115 (4) (at) *Farm to school program administration*. The amounts in the  
2 schedule for promotion of farm to school programs under s. 93.49.

3           **SECTION 5.** 93.49 of the statutes is created to read:

4           **93.49 Farm to school programs. (1) DEFINITION.** In this section, “farm to  
5 school program” means a program to connect schools with nearby farms to provide  
6 children with locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables and other nutritious,  
7 locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks; help children  
8 develop healthy eating habits; provide nutritional and agricultural education; and  
9 improve farmers’ incomes and direct access to markets.

10           **(2) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.** (a) The department shall promote farm to  
11 school programs. The department shall encourage schools, as part of farm to school  
12 programs, to purchase food produced in this state and to provide nutritional and  
13 agricultural education, including farm visits, cooking demonstrations, and  
14 composting and gardening at schools.

15           (b) The department shall do all of the following in carrying out its  
16 responsibilities under par. (a):

17           1. Identify impediments to providing locally produced fresh fruits and  
18 vegetables and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches,  
19 and snacks and seek to reduce those impediments.

20           2. Advise other state agencies and local agencies on actions to promote farm to  
21 school programs and coordinate the department’s activities under this subsection  
22 with related activities of other state agencies, including the department of public  
23 instruction and the department of health services, local agencies, and nonprofit  
24 organizations.

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1           3. Promote communications between local farmers and schools and sales of food  
2 from local farmers to schools.

3           4. Conduct training and provide technical assistance for school food service  
4 personnel and managers, farmers, and food distributors and processors concerning  
5 farm to school programs and food safety and procurement.

6           5. Promote farm to school programs through a public education campaign.

7           6. Provide information on its Internet site concerning farm to school programs.

8           7. Consult with the farm to school council and other interested persons.

9           **(3) GRANT PROGRAM.** (a) From the appropriation under s. 20.115 (4) (as), the  
10 department shall provide grants to school districts, nonprofit organizations,  
11 farmers, and any other entities for the creation and expansion of farm to school  
12 programs. The department shall give preference to proposals that are innovative or  
13 that provide models that other school districts can adopt.

14           (b) The department may provide funding under this subsection for projects that  
15 do any of the following:

16           1. Create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and  
17 distribution of food produced in this state for sale to schools in this state.

18           2. Create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for  
19 the facilities, that would ensure the use of food produced in this state in schools in  
20 this state.

21           3. Provide, expand, or promote training for training for food service personnel,  
22 farmers, and distributors.

23           4. Provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education in the  
24 classroom.

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1           (c) The department shall consult with the farm to school council and other  
2 interested persons to establish grant priorities for each fiscal year.

3           **(4) RULES.** The department shall promulgate rules for the administration of  
4 this section.

5           **(5) REPORTS.** At least annually, the farm to school council shall report to the  
6 legislature under s. 13.172 (2) and to the secretary on the needs and opportunities  
7 for farm to school programs.

8           **SECTION 6. Nonstatutory provisions.**

9           **(1) POSITION AUTHORIZATION.** The authorized FTE positions for the department  
10 of agriculture, trade and consumer protection are increased by 1.0 GPR position to  
11 be funded from the appropriation under section 20.115 (4) (at) of the statutes, as  
12 created by this act, for promotion of farm to school programs.

13

**(END)**