

Massachusetts Passes Farm to School Legislation

It was an exciting year in the Commonwealth's Legislature, as senators and representatives worked together to pass a School Nutrition Bill, which included farm to school provisions. The Mass. Farm to School Project provided intensive technical assistance to advocates and legislators as language was being crafted and possible outcomes discussed. Thanks to the Mass. Public Health Association staff, Rep. Peter Koutoujian, and all those who helped pass the bill.



Here are some excerpts from the new law:

⇒ State agencies INCLUDING PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
“...shall, in advertising for bids, contracts or otherwise procuring products of agriculture, make reasonable efforts to facilitate the purchase of such products of agriculture grown or produced... in the commonwealth. The state purchasing agent... shall purchase the products of agriculture grown... in the commonwealth, unless the price of the goods exceeds, by more than 10 percent, the price of products of agriculture grown... outside of the commonwealth.”

⇒ For public school systems, governed by Chapter 30B, an amendment was written to clarify that they can make multiple purchases from Mass. farmers during the course of a year. *“A procurement officer who follows sound business practices may award contracts which include individual purchases of less than \$25,000 to Massachusetts farm operations for the procurement of products of agriculture... that are grown in the commonwealth... without seeking quotations....”*

For the complete text of The School Nutrition Bill go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/186/ht04pdf/ht04919.pdf>