

HOUSE No. 5182

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 22, 2008.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill establishing the Massachusetts food policy council (House, No. 3853), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 5182).

For the committee,

ROBERT A. DELEO.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 20 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
2 after section 6B the following section:—
3 Section 6D. (a) There shall be established a Massachusetts food
4 policy council, hereinafter referred to as the council. The council
5 shall consist of 21 members, 1 of whom shall be a member of the
6 house representatives who shall be appointed by the speaker of the
7 house of representatives; 1 of whom shall be a member of the
8 senate who shall be appointed by the president of the senate;
9 19 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be
10 the secretary of the executive office of administration and finance,
11 or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the
12 department of agricultural resources, or his designee; 1 of whom
13 shall be the commissioner of the department of public health, or
14 his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the depart-
15 ment of education, or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the
16 commissioner of the department of environmental protection, or
17 his designee; 1 of whom shall be the commissioner of the depart-
18 ment of transitional assistance, or his designee; 1 of whom shall
19 be the undersecretary of the department of business development,
20 or his designee; 1 of whom shall be the president of the Massa-
21 chusetts development finance agency, or his designee; 1 of whom
22 shall be a representative of the cooperative extension service at
23 the University of Massachusetts at Amherst; 1 of whom shall be a
24 representative of commercial farming, fisheries and aquaculture;
25 1 of whom shall be a representative of farmland preservation and
26 conservation; 1 of whom shall be a representative of farmers'
27 markets or farm and food cooperatives; 1 of whom shall be a rep-
28 resentative of the wholesale and retail food businesses; 1 of whom
29 shall be a representative of "buy local" initiatives and state or

30 local procurement programs with expertise in accessing locally
31 grown and processed food products; 1 of whom shall be a repre-
32 sentative of food safety and public health protection; 1 of whom
33 shall be a representative of food banks, food pantries, and organi-
34 zations and programs addressing nutritional health and hunger;
35 1 of whom shall be a representative of an organization promoting
36 development of new farm businesses, urban and community sup-
37 ported agriculture, community gardening, immigrant and refugee
38 farming, and youth education through agriculture; and 2 of whom
39 shall be individuals who own and manage farms in the common-
40 wealth.

41 (b) The purpose of the council shall be to develop a comprehen-
42 sive food policy for the commonwealth that shall, without limita-
43 tion: enhance the economic viability of Massachusetts agriculture;
44 promote food security and the long-term sustainability of the com-
45 monwealth's food supply; expand production and consumption of
46 fresh, healthy, safe and locally produced foods; and improve the
47 nutritional health of the commonwealth's citizens. The council
48 shall: (i) review existing state programs, policies and regulations
49 that affect the food system and recommend to the governor and
50 the general court means for improved coordination or implementa-
51 tion of such programs, policies or regulations to achieve food
52 policy objectives; and (ii) review any proposed legislation or reg-
53 ulations that will impact the commonwealth's food system and
54 make recommendations to the governor and the general court
55 regarding such legislation or regulations. The council may:
56 (i) propose changes to existing state programs or policies or pro-
57 pose new state programs or policies to help achieve food policy
58 objectives; (ii) undertake a review of existing federal programs,
59 policies and regulations, or proposed federal legislation or regula-
60 tions; (iii) make recommendations to federal agencies or the com-
61 monwealth's congressional delegation; (iv) solicit public input
62 through public hearings or informational sessions; and (v) invite
63 additional stakeholder participation in subcommittees or working
64 groups to address issues identified by the council as requiring fur-
65 ther study or particular expertise; and conduct research and
66 analysis as needed.

67 (c) The council shall submit an annual report of its findings,
68 conclusions, proposals and recommendations as provided in sub-

69 section (b) not later than December 31. The report shall be sub-
70 mitted to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of
71 the house, the chairs of the joint committee on public health, the
72 chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources
73 and agriculture, the clerk of the house of representative and the
74 clerk of the senate.

75 (d) The council shall meet periodically, but not less than once
76 annually. All meetings shall be public.

77 (e) The council shall keep a public record of all meetings, votes
78 and other business.

79 (f) Members of the council shall be appointed for terms of
80 3 years or until a successor is appointed. Members shall be
81 eligible to be reappointed and shall serve without compensation.
82 A chairman of the council shall be elected annually from the
83 membership. The department shall provide administrative support
84 to the council as requested.

85 (g) In the event of a vacancy on the council, the original
86 appointing authority shall, within 60 days of the occurrence of a
87 vacancy, appoint a new member consistent with subsection (a) to
88 fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term.