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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school food service programs; amending s. 1006.06, F.S.; creating the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within the Department of Education; requiring the program to comply with regulations of the National School Lunch Program and meet specified requirements; requiring the department to work with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop policies that encourage school districts to buy fresh and local food and select foods with maximum nutritional content; requiring the department, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to provide outreach services regarding the benefits of fresh food products from this state; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 1006.06, Florida Statutes, to read:

1006.06 School food service programs.

(6) The Legislature, recognizing that school children need nutritious food not only for healthy physical and intellectual development but also to combat diseases related to poor nutrition and obesity, establishes the Florida Farm Fresh Schools Program within the Department of Education as the lead agency for the program. The program shall comply with the regulations of the National School Lunch Program and require:

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- (a) The Department of Education to work with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to develop policies pertaining to school food services which encourage:
- 1. School districts to buy fresh and high-quality foods grown in this state when feasible.
- 2. Farmers in this state to sell their products to school districts and schools.
- 3. School districts and schools to demonstrate a preference for competitively priced organic food products.
- (b) School districts and schools to make reasonable efforts to select foods based on a preference for those that have maximum nutritional content.
- (c) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to provide outreach, guidance, and training to school districts, schools, school food service directors, parent and teacher organizations, and students about the benefits of fresh food products from farms in this state.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2010.