

By Mr. Hodgkins of Lee, petition of Christopher J. Hodgkins and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote the purchase of Massachusetts grown produce for certain needy persons. State Administration.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

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AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE PURCHASE OF MASSACHUSETTS GROWN PRODUCE BY NEEDY PERSONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by adding after Section 2 (i) thereof the following new  
3 paragraph: —

4 (j) The commissioner of food and agriculture is hereby  
5 authorized and directed to establish a program to promote the  
6 purchase of Massachusetts-grown produce by nutritionally at-risk  
7 populations. Alternative program designs, including but not  
8 limited to, provision of coupons redeemable at farmers' markets  
9 shall be tested and evaluated. Evaluations shall include: relative  
10 cost and impact on sales volume of outlets for Massachusetts  
11 produce; nutritional benefit to participants; administrative  
12 efficacy; impact on and coordination with state and federal food  
13 and nutrition programs. The commissioner shall consult with the  
14 Massachusetts nutrition board and the Massachusetts federation  
15 of farmers' markets in the planning, implementation and  
16 evaluation of the program. Participants in one or more of the  
17 following programs shall receive priority for the program: The  
18 special supplemental program for women, infants and children;  
19 elderly nutrition programs; food stamps; commodity distribution  
20 and homeless programs.

1 SECTION 2. The sum of \$300,000 is hereby appropriated to  
2 carry out the purposes of this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon passage.