

HOUSE No. 6121

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 4, 1982.

The committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 709) of Thomas K. Lynch and James G. Collins that the Department of Food and Agriculture be directed to assist in the establishment of a highway farmers market demonstratio project in the town of Middleborough; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2825) of Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., William P. Nagle, Jr., and William A. Carey for legislation to authorize the Department of Food and Agriculture to assist in the establishment of a farmers market on certain highways of the Commonwealth, reports recommending that the accompanying bill, (House, No. 6121) ought to pass.

For the committee,

THOMAS K. LYNCH.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Two.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TO ESTABLISH A DEMONSTRATION FARMER'S MARKET ON A HIGHWAY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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. In the interest of promoting the sale of Massachu-
2 setts grown products, the Department of Food and Agriculture
3 through its division of agricultural development is hereby author-
4 ized and directed to establish, on a demonstration basis, a farmer's
5 market to be located on a highway of the Commonwealth.

6 The site for such demonstration farmers market shall be deter-
7 mined by the Commissioner of Food and Agriculture, who shall
8 seek the advice of the Commissioner of the Department of Public
9 Works in determining feasible locations. In no case shall any
10 location be chosen which is within two miles of a currently operat-
11 ing privately-owned retail outlet whose primary business is the sale
12 of agricultural produce.

13 The Commissioner of Food and Agriculture shall make rules
14 and regulations for the management of the site and use thereof, and
15 may prescribe penalties for their violation. The Commissioner
16 shall designate a market master who shall have charge of the said
17 market. The market master shall conduct said market in the inter-
18 est of the public and the market men and shall enforce the rules and
19 regulations promulgated by the Commissioner. The participating
20 operations shall be responsible for clean-up of said market.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2D of chapter 85 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in chapter 862 of the Acts of 1967 is hereby amended by
3 striking out in line 4 the words "food and lodging" and inserting in
4 place thereof the following words: — "food and lodging, farmers
5 markets."

1 SECTION 3. The Commissioner of the Department of Public
2 Works shall direct the appropriate division in said department to
3 place a sign on each side of the highway one mile from the entrance
4 of the market informing motorists of said market.

1 SECTION 4. Upon completion of the demonstration project,
2 the Commissioner of the Department of Food and Agriculture
3 shall issue a report to the Clerks of the House of Representatives
4 and Senate summarizing the progress of the project.

5 The report of the Commissioner shall include, but not be limited
6 to, the following:

7 a. the number of farmers using the facilities each day to sell their
8 produce, b. number of motorists entering the market area each
9 day, c. a summary of motor vehicle accidents, if any, that occur
10 within one-quarter mile of the entrance and exit of the market, d. a
11 summary of the physical condition of the market site before the
12 first day and following the last day of the project period, f. a
13 summary of correspondence received from consumers and farmers
14 using the market.

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon passage.

