

By Mr. Hodgkins of Lee, petition of Christopher J. Hodgkins that the Department of Public Health be required to establish procedures for the monitoring and testing of the effects of pesticides and residues on all food and produce sold in the Commonwealth. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY IN 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 6 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end
3 thereof the following paragraph: —

4 The department shall establish procedures for the monitoring
5 and testing of the effects of pesticides and their residues on all
6 food and produce sold or offered for sale for human consumption
7 in the commonwealth. The department shall, in cooperation with
8 the department of food and agriculture, establish such tests as
9 necessary to determine the proper criteria for the testing of such
10 residues and their effects on such food or produce and establish
11 standards for certifying laboratories for the testing of such
12 residues to determine their effect on the public health. In
13 promulgating such rules and regulations necessary to enforce the
14 provisions of this paragraph, the department may impose
15 reasonable civil and criminal penalties. Said departments shall
16 jointly develop a public education program to increase consumer
17 awareness of pesticides in food and produce and shall jointly
18 develop a system of certifying organically grown fruits and
19 vegetables.

