

By Mr. Hodgkins of Lee, petition of Christopher J. Hodgkins and Jane M. Swift for legislation to promote the purchase of Massachusetts grown produce for certain needy persons. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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 Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 after Section 2 (i) thereof the following new paragraph: —
3 (j) The commissioner of food and agriculture is hereby
4 authorized and directed to establish a program to promote the
5 purchase of Massachusetts-grown produce by nutritionally at-risk
6 populations. Alternative program designs, including but not
7 limited to, provision of coupons redeemable at farmers' markets
8 shall be tested and evaluated. Evaluations shall include: relative
9 cost and impact on sales volume of outlets for Massachusetts
10 produce; nutritional benefit to participants; administrative
11 efficacy; impact on and coordination with state and federal food
12 and nutrition programs. The commissioner shall consult with the
13 Massachusetts nutrition board and the Massachusetts federation
14 of farmers' markets in the planning, implementation and
15 evaluation of the program. Participants in one or more of the
16 following programs shall receive priority for the program: The
17 special supplemental program for women, infants and children;
18 elderly nutrition programs; food stamps; commodity distribution
19 and homeless programs.

