The original instrument was prepared by Jeanne Johnston. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Curry J. Lann.

## DIGEST

SB 420 Engrossed

## 2016 Regular Session

Thompson

Provides for the "Louisiana Farm to School Program Act" as follows:

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, to develop and implement a farm to school program to be administered by the state Department of Education.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the purpose of the program is to assist schools and school food service personnel to identify and utilize all available resources to support and increase the use of locally grown or raised agricultural products in school nutrition programs.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the state Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry to collaboratively:

- (1) Provide an inventory of farming operations throughout the state by region that links schools and school districts with farmers through the use of the LSU AgCenter's membership in the MarketMaker network.
- (2) Provide guidance to local schools to develop relationships with local farmers to support requests that specific crops be produced for use in school nutrition programs.
- (3) Encourage schools and school districts to include local farmers, food processors, and suppliers when procuring food products that fall under the Federal Small Purchase Threshold.
- (4) Disseminate specific farm to school procurement guidelines for farmers and schools regarding contracting with schools and school districts and school food safety and liability insurance requirements.
- (5) Disseminate information to schools and school districts regarding the proper equipment required to prepare and process fresh food onsite.
- (6) Create a plan to integrate classroom and hands-on activities related to agriculture, food, health, and nutrition into the school curricula.
- (7) Develop a Louisiana Farm to School Handbook to provide guidance and resources to schools and farmers and other producers of agricultural products to promote the use of local and regionally produced foods in school nutrition programs and to develop and implement a

successful farm to school program.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires DOE and the Dept. of Agriculture to consult with the LSU and Southern University agricultural centers, the Louisiana Farm to School Alliance, and other stakeholder groups in implementing the provisions of <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that implementation of the farm to school program is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature or the availability of any other federal funding, grants, gifts, or public or private donations which may be used for coordination of resources for the program.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:195.1)

## Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

## Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development to the original bill

- 1. Clarifies that an inventory of farming operations will be provided by the LSU AgCenter's membership in the MarketMaker network.
- 2. Requires that implementation of the farm to school program is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature or the availability of any other federal funding, grants, gifts, or public or private donations which may be used for coordination of resources for the program.
- 3. Makes technical changes.