The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

Thompson

SB 420 Original

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) Create an inventory of small and large farmers and crops across the state, by region.
- (2) Create a plan for 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) Develop specific farm to school standards and guidelines for farmers and schools regarding contracting with schools and school districts and school food safety and liability insurance requirements.
- (5) Develop a plan to ensure that schools have the proper equipment 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.

Proposed law 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 proposed law .

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

(Adds R.S. 17:195.1)