



95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB5949

by Rep. Sandy Cole - Elizabeth Coulson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
30 ILCS 105/5.708 new

Creates the Farm Fresh Schools Program Act. Sets forth the findings of the General Assembly. Provides that the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Department of Public Health shall create the Farm Fresh Schools Program. Provides that the intent of the Program is to reduce obesity and improve nutrition and public health, as well as strengthen local agricultural economies by increasing access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown fruits and vegetables in schools and increasing physical activities and programs that promote pupil wellness. Provides that the Department of Agriculture and the Illinois State Board of Education shall jointly administer a process to review grant proposals and award grants on a competitive basis to eligible applicants to implement the Program. Creates the Farm Fresh Schools Program Fund as a special fund in the State treasury.

LRB095 18431 KBJ 44517 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Farm
5 Fresh Schools Program Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the
7 following:

8 (a) According to the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention, less than 20% of young people eat the recommended 5
10 or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day. A recent
11 study in the New England Journal of Medicine finds that, unless
12 reversed, in the next 50 years obesity will shorten life
13 expectancy in the United States by 2 to 5 years, exceeding the
14 impact of cancer or heart disease. Studies by the Yale
15 University School of Public Health have found that, due to
16 obesity and related diseases, the current generation of young
17 people may be the first in American history whose life
18 expectancy is projected to be less than that of their parents.

19 (b) Farm-to-school programs link schools with local and
20 regional farms in order to provide schools with fresh and
21 minimally processed farm commodities for inclusion in school
22 meals, vending machines, salad bars, and snacks. These programs
23 also help children develop nutritional awareness and healthy

1 eating habits.

2 (c) In addition to procuring farm fresh foods for school
3 food offerings, farm-to-school programs often include
4 activities that provide pupils with hands-on learning
5 opportunities, such as farm visits, cooking demonstrations,
6 and school gardening and composting programs, and integrate
7 nutrition and agriculture education in school curricula.

8 (d) It is in the interest of this State to promote
9 farm-to-school programs that emphasize the purchase of farm
10 fresh foods by schools in order to improve child nutrition and
11 strengthen local and regional farm economies.

12 Section 10. Farm Fresh Schools Program. The Department of
13 Agriculture in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of
14 Education and the Department of Public Health shall create the
15 Farm Fresh Schools Program. The intent of the Program is to
16 reduce obesity and improve nutrition and public health, as well
17 as strengthen local agricultural economies by increasing
18 access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown fruits
19 and vegetables in schools and increasing physical activities
20 and programs that promote pupil wellness.

21 Section 15. Grants.

22 (a) The Department of Agriculture and the Illinois State
23 Board of Education shall jointly administer a process to review
24 grant proposals and award grants on a competitive basis to

1 eligible applicants to implement the Program.

2 (b) The first 6 grants awarded pursuant to the Program
3 shall be awarded in 6 different counties, including 3 urban
4 counties and 3 rural counties with a significant agricultural
5 economy.

6 Section 20. Farm Fresh School Fund. The Farm Fresh Schools
7 Program Fund is created as a special fund in the State
8 treasury. Moneys in the fund shall be used for the purposes of
9 this Act.

10 Section 25. The Department of Agriculture with the
11 cooperation of the Department of Public Health and the Illinois
12 State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
13 implementation of this Act.

14 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
15 Section 5.708 as follows:

16 (30 ILCS 105/5.708 new)

17 Sec. 5.708. The Farm Fresh Schools Program Fund.