

House Bill 847

By: Representatives Benfield of the 85th, McCall of the 30th, Levitas of the 82nd, Roberts of the 154th, James of the 135th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 8 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 agricultural commodities promotion, so as to provide for a farm to school program to
3 promote the sale of Georgia-grown farm products to county and independent school districts
4 in this state; to amend Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
5 Annotated, relating to the State Board of Education, so as to provide for a program to
6 encourage and solicit county and independent school districts to purchase Georgia-grown
7 farm products; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Chapter 8 of Title 2 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to agricultural
11 commodities promotion, is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

12 "ARTICLE 6

13 2-8-150.

14 There is established within the department a farm to school program. The department, in
15 coordination with the efforts of the Department of Education under Code Section 20-2-21,
16 shall facilitate and promote the sale of Georgia-grown farm products to county and
17 independent school districts in this state. Through the farm to school program, the
18 department shall:

19 (1) Encourage and solicit Georgia farmers to sell their products to such districts, schools,
20 and other educational institutions;

21 (2) Develop and regularly update a data base of farmers interested in selling their
22 products to Georgia schools, including the types and amounts of products the farmers
23 want to sell and the time periods during which the farmers want to sell;

- 24 (3) In coordination with the Department of Education, facilitate purchases from local
25 farmers by such interested school districts; and
26 (4) Provide outreach and guidance to farmers concerning the value of and procedure for
27 selling their products to such interested school districts."

28 **SECTION 2.**

29 Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
30 State Board of Education, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

31 "20-2-21.

32 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, school
33 food service directors, and interested farming organizations, shall:

34 (1) Establish a week-long promotional event, to be known as 'Georgia Grown for
35 Georgia Kids Week,' each year that will promote Georgia agriculture and foods to
36 children through school meal and classroom programs, at farms, farmers' markets, and
37 other locations in this state;

38 (2) Encourage and solicit county and independent school districts to purchase
39 Georgia-grown farm products;

40 (3) Provide outreach, guidance, and training to school districts, parent and teacher
41 organizations, and school food service directors concerning the value of and procedure
42 for purchasing and incorporating into their regular menus Georgia-grown farm products;

43 (4) In coordination with the efforts of the Department of Agriculture under Code
44 Section 2-8-150, arrange for local, regional, and state-wide events where potential
45 purchasers and farmers can interact; and

46 (5) Arrange for interaction between students and farmers, including field trips to farms
47 and in-school presentations by farmers."

48 **SECTION 3.**

49 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.