

**SENATE . . . . . No. 3040**

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Senate, April 1, 2026 -- Text of the Senate Bill fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 3040) (being the text of Senate No. 2029, printed as amended)

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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An Act fostering agricultural resilience in Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 23A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 10A the following section:-

3           Section 10A1/2. (a) The MOBD shall establish a Massachusetts food tourism task force  
4 to identify, evaluate, make recommendations and implement such recommendations regarding  
5 the challenges and benefits of marketing, promoting and selling consumer food, farm and  
6 agricultural goods produced in the commonwealth.

7           (b) The task force shall consist of the director of MOBD or a designee, who shall serve as  
8 chair; the secretary of the executive office of economic development or a designee; the director  
9 of the office of real estate and economic development of the Massachusetts Department of  
10 Transportation or a designee; the chief executive officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority or a  
11 designee; the chair of the board of higher education at the department of higher education or a

12 designee; the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources or a designee; and the  
13 executive director of the office of travel and tourism or a designee.

14 (c) The task force shall: (i) identify and assess state-operated and state-owned locations  
15 suitable for marketing, promoting or selling consumer food, farm and agriculture goods produced  
16 in the commonwealth; (ii) provide information to businesses that produce consumer food, farm  
17 and agricultural goods in the commonwealth about state-operated and state-owned locations  
18 where these businesses may sell their goods; (iii) develop and maintain a public list of businesses  
19 or vendors of consumer food, farm and agriculture goods produced in the commonwealth; and  
20 (iv) develop and implement a brand to identify consumer food, farm and agriculture goods  
21 produced in the commonwealth for purposes of promoting and marketing said goods.

22 (d) The MOBD may expend such funds as may be appropriated therefor and may accept  
23 federal funds or private gifts and grants to assist it in carrying out the purposes of this section.

24 (e) Annually, not later than November 1, the task force shall report to the clerks of the  
25 senate and house of representatives and the joint committee on tourism, arts and cultural  
26 development on the activities of the task force including, but not limited to: (i) any challenges  
27 identified to the marketing, promotion and selling of consumer food, farm and agricultural  
28 products produced in the commonwealth; (ii) actions taken or recommended to address such  
29 challenges; (iii) an assessment of the effectiveness of connecting businesses that produce  
30 consumer food, farm and agricultural goods with state-operated and state-owned locations where  
31 such businesses can sell such goods; and (iv) any other factors as determined by the MOBD.

32 (f) The MOBD shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

33 SECTION 2. Section 23B of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024  
34 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

35 (d)(1) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the state purchasing  
36 agent, in collaboration with the commonwealth's 4 regional food banks, the executive office of  
37 aging and independence, the department of agricultural resources, the department of transitional  
38 assistance, the department of higher education and the department of elementary and secondary  
39 education, shall annually, not later than October 31, report on the distribution of products of  
40 agriculture, which, for the purposes of this subsection, shall include seafood and processed  
41 foods, through food assistance programs that receive state funding. The report shall include, but  
42 not be limited to:

43 (i) the quantity of products of agriculture distributed, by dollar value and as a percentage  
44 of total food distributed and, where possible, by weight;

45 (ii) a breakdown of the types of products of agriculture distributed, including, but not  
46 limited to, seafood and processed food, including whether or not the processed food includes  
47 ingredients grown, raised or caught in the commonwealth, by dollar amounts and as a percentage  
48 of total food distributed and, where possible, by weight;

49 (iii) a breakdown of the number and names of farms, delineated by municipality, from  
50 which products of agriculture are sourced for food assistance programs that receive state  
51 funding;

52 (iv) the quantity of products of agriculture distributed by food assistance programs that  
53 receive state funding including, but not limited to, the Massachusetts emergency food assistance  
54 program, the Massachusetts healthy incentives program, universal free school meals, the hunger-

55 free campus initiative, the farming reinforces education and student health grant program, the  
56 senior nutrition program, the Meals on Wheels program and the senior farm share program, by  
57 dollar amounts and as a percentage of total food distributed and, where possible, by weight; and

58 (v) recommendations on how the commonwealth can increase the amount of products of  
59 agriculture distributed through food assistance programs that receive state funding in future fiscal  
60 years while maintaining affordability and fairly valuing local food, and as budgetary or policy  
61 recommendations for implementing such recommendations.

62 (2) The report shall be made available on the operational service division's website and a  
63 copy shall be filed with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint  
64 committee on agriculture and fisheries and the joint committee on children, families and persons  
65 with disabilities.

66 SECTION 3. The third paragraph of subsection (a) of section 23 of chapter 20 of the  
67 General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting after the second sentence the  
68 following sentence:-

69 To determine the extent to which each factor contributed to the enrollment of land in the  
70 program, the review may include an assessment of factors including, but not limited to: (i) the  
71 suitability and productivity of land for agricultural use based on soil classification, physical  
72 features and location; (ii) the degree of threat to the continuation of agriculture on the land due  
73 to circumstances including, but not limited to, the landowner's health, retirement, financial  
74 positions, development pressure or insecurity due to rental agreements; (iii) the size or  
75 composition of the land that determines whether it is economically viable for agricultural  
76 purposes, and the likelihood that it will remain in agricultural use in the future; (iv) the estimated

77 amount and type of crop production; (v) soil health, water recharge areas, biodiversity, carbon  
78 sequestration and other ecosystem services; (vi) existing infrastructure located on the land; (vii)  
79 access to markets; (viii) access to land ownership for historically marginalized communities; (ix)  
80 opportunities to meet or further environmental justice principles as defined in section 62 of  
81 chapter 30; and (x) any other factors as determined by the department. The review may evaluate:  
82 (A) the number of acres newly enrolled in an agricultural preservation restriction during the past  
83 year and the total number of acres enrolled in an agricultural preservation restriction in the  
84 commonwealth; (B) the total number of farms that have acquired a new agricultural preservation  
85 restriction during the past year and the total number of farms holding an agricultural preservation  
86 restriction in the commonwealth; (C) the geographic distribution of farms enrolled in an  
87 agricultural preservation restriction; and (D) challenges to enrolling new land in an agricultural  
88 preservation restriction.

89 SECTION 4. Said Chapter 20 is hereby further amended by adding the following 2  
90 sections:-

91 Section 34. Subject to appropriation, there shall be established a food security  
92 infrastructure grant program to support equitable access to healthy, local food and to strengthen  
93 food supply and distribution systems in all geographic regions of the commonwealth, which shall  
94 be administered by the commissioner. The commissioner may award grants under the program  
95 to: (i) food producers, processors and distributors; (ii) emergency food distributors; (iii)  
96 community and food organizations; (iv) school meal programs and summer meal sponsors; (v)  
97 urban farms and community gardens; and (vi) nonprofit food security organizations; provided,  
98 however, that grants awarded under this section shall be used to fund capital improvements,  
99 including, but not limited to: (A) the purchase of new or used equipment; (B) contracted labor

100 costs in order to implement projects; and (C) costs associated with planning and design directly  
101 related to capital projects that strengthen and improve the resiliency of the commonwealth's food  
102 system while facilitating greater access to fresh, local food and addressing systemic inequities.

103         Section 35. The department shall develop and maintain a plan to support agricultural,  
104 seafood and processed food production in the commonwealth to mitigate the impacts of food  
105 supply chain disruptions. The plan shall be developed in coordination with the Massachusetts  
106 emergency management agency, the division of marine fisheries, the department of public health  
107 and the department of transitional assistance and shall include consideration for food production,  
108 transportation, storage and distribution. The plan shall be reviewed and updated every 5 years.  
109 The commissioner shall submit the plan, along with any updates made pursuant to this section, to  
110 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on agriculture and  
111 fisheries and the joint committee on emergency preparedness and management.

112         SECTION 5. Chapter 21G of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
113 following section:-

114         Section 21. (a) Registration statements and permits for withdrawals for use in cranberry  
115 production may be transferred to and used for mitigation by other permitted or registered users if  
116 such statement and permits were valid from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2005. The  
117 portion of water lost to the basin may be eligible for use as mitigation by such permitted users.

118         (b) Consumptive loss to the basin shall be determined based on industry-wide water use  
119 standards.

120         SECTION 6. Section 2WWW of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the  
121 2024 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

122 (l) Money in the fund may be transferred to the Next Generation Farmers Fund  
123 established in section 2000000.

124 SECTION 7. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
125 section 2NNNNNN the following 2 sections:-

126 Section 2000000. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the  
127 commonwealth a separate, non-budgeted special revenue fund to be known as the Next  
128 Generation Farmers Fund. The fund shall be administered by the secretary of labor and  
129 workforce development, in consultation with the secretary of energy and environmental affairs,  
130 the secretary of education and the commissioner of agricultural resources.

131 (b) The fund shall be credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money  
132 authorized by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) funds  
133 from public or private sources, including gifts, grants, donations, rebates and settlements  
134 received by the commonwealth that are specifically designated to be credited to the fund; and  
135 (iii) interest earned on any money in the fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall be expended  
136 without further appropriation and the unexpended balance in the fund at the close of a fiscal year  
137 shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. No expenditure made from the  
138 fund shall cause the fund to be in deficit at any point. Money in the fund shall be awarded as  
139 grants for the purpose of agricultural workforce development to public institutions of higher  
140 education, vocational technical schools and community-based organizations with existing  
141 programs for providing workforce development training to entry-level farmers or the capacity to  
142 create such programs. Priority consideration shall be given to programs that serve a high  
143 percentage of historically underserved or low-income students or people with disabilities,

144 programs operated by nonprofit organizations that house homeless veterans and include food  
145 production or distribution training and programs that include hands-on training and training in  
146 agricultural practices that mitigate climate change and protect the environment.

147 (c) Annually, not later than May 30, the secretary of labor and workforce development  
148 shall submit a report detailing the expenditures of the fund to the clerks of the house of  
149 representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint  
150 committee on economic development and emerging technologies and the joint committee on  
151 agriculture and fisheries.

152 Section 2PPPPPP. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following words shall have the  
153 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

154 “Urban agriculture”, an activity which meets the definition of “agriculture” in  
155 section 1A of chapter 128 and takes place in urban and suburban areas and which shall include,  
156 but not be limited to, recreational and educational farming and gardening and other agricultural  
157 enterprises.

158 “Vacant lot”, a parcel which is not actively used or occupied and that has not been  
159 actively used or occupied within at least the preceding year, including, but not limited to,  
160 abandoned, empty and foreclosed properties. “Vacant lot” shall not mean a parcel which is the  
161 site of ongoing renovations or repairs due to fire or other casualty.

162 (b) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate,  
163 non-budgeted special revenue, fund to be known as the Vacant Lots to Urban Agriculture Fund.  
164 The fund shall be administered by the department of agricultural resources and shall be credited  
165 with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court and

166 specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) funds from public and private sources such  
167 as gifts, grants and donations; and (iii) interest earned on money in the fund. Amounts credited to  
168 the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at the  
169 close of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall remain available for  
170 expenditure in subsequent fiscal years. No expenditure made from the fund shall cause the fund  
171 to be in deficit at any point.

172 (c) The purpose of the fund shall be to support the introduction of urban agriculture to  
173 vacant lots. Priority consideration shall be given to projects located in socially or economically  
174 disadvantaged communities that support increased economic development, food security, climate  
175 and heat resilience, agricultural education, job training, donations of food to food-insecure  
176 residents, public engagement, utilization of controlled-climate growing infrastructure and  
177 agricultural systems or other agricultural practices backed by climate science. Grants from the  
178 fund shall be awarded for: (i) municipalities to collaboratively develop urban agriculture plans  
179 with residents, local food system businesses, nonprofit organizations or other organizations and  
180 regional planning agencies; (ii) municipalities, urban agriculture organizations or businesses to  
181 assist in the purchasing of privately owned parcels; (iii) municipalities, urban farming businesses  
182 or nonprofit organizations to purchase or lease land, renovate land, build infrastructure or assist  
183 in urban agriculture startup costs; (iv) establishing pilot programs in socially or economically  
184 disadvantaged communities to introduce urban agriculture to vacant lots; (v) moving a  
185 municipally-held tax land lien that was foreclosed to agricultural use; or (vi) protecting a parcel  
186 with a conservation easement.

187 (d) The department of agricultural resources shall provide outreach and application  
188 materials for the grant program in multiple languages.

189 (e) The commissioner of agricultural resources shall promulgate regulations for the  
190 administration and implementation of this section.

191 (f) Annually, the commissioner of agricultural resources shall file a report with the house  
192 and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries and  
193 the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate which shall include, but shall not be  
194 limited to: (i) a list of grant applicants and the municipalities in which the vacant lots are located;  
195 (ii) a list of grant recipients and the municipalities in which the vacant lots y are located; (iii) the  
196 amount of funds requested by applicants; (iv) the associated awarded grant amounts; and (v) the  
197 number of socially or economically disadvantaged populations served by the awards made by the  
198 fund.

199 SECTION 8. Section 20 of chapter 30B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2024  
200 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

201 (c) The department of agricultural resources shall conduct a public information campaign  
202 to notify governmental bodies of the program to establish a preference for products of agriculture  
203 as defined in section 1A of chapter 128 not less than every 5 years. The department may develop  
204 a mechanism for a governmental body that establishes a preference under subsection (a) to notify  
205 the department of such vote to establish such preference.

206 SECTION 9. Section 3 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
207 amended by striking out, in lines 6 and 7, the words “or viticulture,” and inserting in place  
208 thereof the following words:- , viticulture or for agritourism, as defined in section 1B of chapter  
209 128, on land used for the primary purpose of commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture,  
210 horticulture, floriculture or viticulture.

211 SECTION 10. Section 5 of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
212 amended by adding the following clause:-

213 Fifty-ninth. (a) For the purposes of this clause, the following words shall have the  
214 following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

215 “Agricultural”, the activity of raising, breeding and boarding of livestock, including, but  
216 not limited to, commercial horse boarding operations.

217 “Structures and buildings”, structures and buildings or portions thereof used directly and  
218 exclusively in the raising and production for sale of agricultural and horticultural commodities or  
219 necessary for the storage thereof; provided, however, that a municipality may also vote to  
220 include as “structures and buildings” the following: (i) structures and buildings or portions  
221 thereof used for the processing of agricultural and horticultural commodities or the retail  
222 merchandising of such commodities produced or raised in the commonwealth; (ii) structures and  
223 buildings used to provide housing for regular and essential employees and their immediate  
224 families who are primarily employed in connection with the operation of lands actively devoted  
225 to agricultural and horticultural use, but not including structures and buildings occupied as a  
226 residence by the applicant and the applicant’s immediate family; (iii) structures and buildings  
227 used as indoor exercise arenas exclusively for training and exercising horses in connection with  
228 the raising and production for sale of agricultural and horticultural commodities or in connection  
229 with a commercial horse boarding operation; provided, however, that indoor exercise arenas  
230 shall not include a horse ranch offering guest lodging and services or a riding academy that  
231 solely provides equine riding lessons; (iv) structures and buildings used in the production of

232 maple syrup; and (v) structures and buildings used in the production of honey and beeswax  
233 including those structures and buildings used for the storage of bees.

234 (b) A city or town that accepts this clause may exempt from taxation any increase in  
235 value that results from the construction or reconstruction of structures and buildings essential to  
236 the operation of land that is actively devoted to the primary purpose of commercial agriculture,  
237 aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture and that is used and occupied to  
238 carry out such operation consistent with section 1A of chapter 128 for a period of not more than  
239 5 years. A city or town may establish a limit on the value exempt from taxation.

240 (c) An exemption from taxation under this clause shall be granted only upon an  
241 application by the owner of the building or structure on a form prescribed by the commissioner.  
242 The applicant shall furnish such information as the municipality's board of assessors may  
243 require. Such application shall be filed with the assessor of the municipality having the power to  
244 assess property for taxation not later than the appropriate taxable status date of such municipality  
245 and not more than 1 year after the date of completion of construction or reconstruction of  
246 structures and buildings. The assessor of the municipality may approve an application upon a  
247 finding the applicant is entitled to an exemption. Structures or buildings that receive such  
248 approval shall be exempt from taxation as provided under this clause. The assessed value of any  
249 exemption granted under this clause shall be entered by the assessor on the portion of the  
250 assessment roll provided for property exempt from taxation. An exemption granted pursuant to  
251 this clause shall continue, for not more than 5 years, only while such buildings and structures are  
252 used and occupied as provided herein.

253 (d) In the event that land or buildings or structures in agricultural or horticultural use are  
254 converted to non-agricultural or non-horticultural use during the period of an exemption granted  
255 pursuant to this clause, the structures or buildings upon which the exemption was granted shall  
256 be subject to roll-back taxes for the period during which the exemption was operative. The  
257 assessors of the appropriate assessing unit shall enter on the taxable portion of the assessment  
258 roll of the current year the assessed valuation or valuations of the structures or buildings on  
259 which exemption was granted in any prior year or years at the assessed valuation or valuations as  
260 set forth on the exempt portion of the assessment roll. The amount of roll-back taxes for  
261 structures and buildings subject thereto pursuant to this clause shall be computed by the  
262 appropriate tax levying body by applying the applicable tax rate for each such prior year to the  
263 assessed valuation, as set forth on the exempt portion of the assessment roll, for such structures  
264 or buildings. Such roll-back taxes shall be levied and collected in the same manner and at the  
265 same time as other taxes are imposed and levied under this chapter.

266 SECTION 11. Section 2A of chapter 61A of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
267 amended by adding the following subsection:-

268 (e)(1) As used in this subsection, the following words shall have the following meanings  
269 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

270 “Commissioner”, the commissioner of agricultural resources.

271 “Department”, the department of agricultural resources.

272 “Farm viability”, the financial and environmental ability of a farm to remain in  
273 operation and produce crops over the short and long term.

274 “Farmland”, land primarily and directly used for agricultural purposes pursuant to section  
275 1 or land primarily and directly used for horticultural purposes pursuant to section 2.

276 (2) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department, in  
277 coordination with the department of energy resources, shall, once every 10 years or at such other  
278 frequency as determined by the commissioner, whichever is more frequent, review and consider  
279 whether any amendments to statutory, regulatory and deed-based restrictions on the amount of  
280 renewable energy allowed to be generated on farmland, including, but not limited to, land  
281 assessed or taxed under this chapter and land in the agricultural preservation restriction program  
282 established pursuant to section 23 of chapter 20, would help preserve or improve farm viability  
283 while considering the commonwealth’s renewable energy goals pursuant to the roadmap plans  
284 required under section 5 of chapter 21N. The department shall, in determining whether and  
285 which amendments to recommend, consider whether alternative measures such as updated or  
286 modernized farm management or business practices could achieve the same or similar  
287 improvements in farm viability as well as the commonwealth’s current ability to support farmers  
288 in updating said practices. The department shall additionally factor into its review and  
289 consideration the impact on food production in the commonwealth, the promotion of healthy  
290 soils and biodiversity, environmental sustainability and the commonwealth’s renewable energy  
291 goals pursuant to the roadmap plans required under section 5 of chapter 21N. If the department  
292 concludes that amendments to the restrictions on the amount of renewable energy allowed to be  
293 generated on farmland are warranted, the commissioner shall include a list of the department’s  
294 specific recommended amendments in the department’s report.

295 (3) The department, not later than 90 days after the completion of the review under  
296 paragraph (2), shall report the findings of its review to the clerks of the house of representatives

297 and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on  
298 agriculture and fisheries and the joint committee on environment and natural resources.

299 SECTION 12. Section 12 of said chapter 61A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
300 adding the following paragraph:-

301 For the purposes of this paragraph, “PFAS” shall mean a class of fluorinated organic  
302 chemicals containing at least 1 fully fluorinated carbon atom.

303 No conveyance tax under this section shall be assessed on land removed from agricultural  
304 or horticultural or agricultural and horticultural use due to regulatory action based on the actual  
305 or suspected presence of PFAS in soil, water, livestock or agricultural products derived from  
306 such land; provided, however, that said regulatory action: (i) is not taken in response to a willful  
307 violation of law or regulation by the owner; and (ii) renders the continued use of such land  
308 economically infeasible. The commissioner of revenue, in consultation with the commissioner of  
309 agricultural resources and the commissioner of environmental protection shall promulgate  
310 regulations to implement this paragraph.

311 SECTION 13. Section 13 of said chapter 61A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
312 inserting after the fourth paragraph the following paragraph:-

313 For the purposes of this paragraph, “PFAS” shall mean a class of fluorinated organic  
314 chemicals containing at least 1 fully fluorinated carbon atom.

315 No roll-back tax imposed by this section shall be assessed on land that no longer meets  
316 the definition of land actively devoted to agricultural, horticultural or agricultural and  
317 horticultural use due to regulatory action regarding the actual or suspected presence of PFAS in

318 soil, water, livestock or agricultural products derived from such land provided that said  
319 regulatory action: (i) is not taken in response to a willful violation of law or regulation by the  
320 owner; and (ii) renders the continued use of such land economically infeasible. The  
321 commissioner of revenue, in consultation with the commissioner of agricultural resources and  
322 the commissioner of environmental protection shall promulgate regulations to implement this  
323 paragraph.

324 SECTION 14. Said chapter 61A is hereby further amended by adding the following  
325 section:-

326 Section 25. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
327 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

328 “Agricultural land”, land deemed to be in agricultural use pursuant to section 1.

329 “Horticultural land”, land considered to be in horticultural use pursuant to section 2.

330 (b) The department of revenue, in consultation with the department of agricultural  
331 resources, shall establish and maintain a central registry of all agricultural land in the  
332 commonwealth. The department of revenue shall update the registry on a biennial basis or at  
333 such other frequency as determined by the commissioner of revenue, whichever is more  
334 frequent. The commissioner of revenue shall facilitate information sharing among federal, state  
335 and local entities. The registry shall include, but not be limited to:

336 (i) in total and in each municipality, the number of parcels and the number of acres of  
337 agricultural land and horticultural land;

338 (ii) in total and in each municipality, the number of parcels and the number of acres of  
339 agricultural land and horticultural land taxed pursuant to this chapter;

340 (iii) in total and in each municipality, the number of parcels and the number of acres of  
341 agricultural land and horticultural land that were disqualified from taxation pursuant to this  
342 chapter during the preceding tax year;

343 (iv) in total and in each municipality, the number of parcels and the number of acres of  
344 agricultural land and horticultural land that are taxed pursuant to this chapter that were not taxed  
345 pursuant to this chapter in the preceding tax year; and

346 (v) the percentage of all cropland in the commonwealth, as reported in the most recent  
347 United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture, that is taxed pursuant to this  
348 chapter.

349 (c) The department of agricultural resources shall, in consultation with the department of  
350 revenue, integrate the data from the central registry established pursuant to subsection (b) into a  
351 publicly accessible, interactive map with data shown at both the individual parcel and municipal  
352 level. The map shall be created in a format that allows for comparison and overlays with existing  
353 maps of soil conditions and types. The department shall make the central registry and the map  
354 publicly available, downloadable and searchable on its website.

355 SECTION 15. Chapter 69 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
356 following sectionn:-

357 Section 40. (a) (1) The department shall, subject to appropriation, administer a  
358 Massachusetts farm-to-school program, consisting of a grant program to strengthen the

359 commonwealth's food and agriculture economy, improve student health and nutrition and build  
360 food literacy among students. The program shall build the capacity of primary and secondary  
361 schools and licensed childcare programs to purchase ingredients grown, raised, caught and  
362 processed in the commonwealth.

363 (2) The department shall establish an advisory committee to advise the department on the  
364 development and administration of the farm-to-school program. The committee shall include a  
365 representative from each of the department of agricultural resources, the department of early  
366 education and care, the division of marine fisheries, Massachusetts Farm to School and the  
367 School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts, Inc., and a geographically and demographically  
368 diverse group of stakeholders appointed by the commissioner.

369 (b) Annually, the department shall submit a report of the farm-to-school program's  
370 activities to the clerks of the house and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and  
371 means, the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries and the joint committee on education,  
372 which shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number, type of organization and award amount  
373 to grantees; (ii) details of food literacy education associated with the program; and (iii) any  
374 recommendations to improve the performance of the program.

375 SECTION 16. Section 14D of chapter 75 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
376 amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs and inserting in place thereof the  
377 following 2 paragraphs:-

378 The board shall consist of the president of the university or a designee; the chancellor of  
379 the University of Massachusetts at Amherst or a designee; the commissioner of food and  
380 agriculture or a designee; and the following persons to be appointed by the governor: 4 members

381 of Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Incorporated chosen from a list of 12 members  
382 submitted by said federation, 1 of whom shall represent cranberry producers; 1 member of  
383 Massachusetts 4-H Foundation, Inc. chosen from a list of 3 members submitted by said  
384 organization; 1 member of the Massachusetts Forestry Association, Inc. chosen from a list of 3  
385 members submitted by said association; 1 member of Massachusetts Audubon Society, Inc.  
386 chosen from a list of 3 members submitted by said society; 2 members of Massachusetts  
387 Arborists Association, Inc. chosen from a list of 5 members submitted by said association; 1  
388 member of a regional agriculture Buy Local organization chosen from a list of 3 members  
389 submitted by said organization; 1 member of the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative  
390 chosen from a list of 3 members submitted by said collaborative; 1 member from an organization  
391 engaged in urban farming education or practices; 2 members of organizations that support  
392 historically marginalized or new entry farmers and food producers; and the senate and house  
393 chairs of the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries or their designees, who shall be  
394 nonvoting members. The chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst shall appoint  
395 the chair from among the membership of the board. Members of the board shall serve without  
396 compensation but shall be reimbursed, subject to appropriation, out of any funds available for the  
397 purpose, for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. Non-voting  
398 members shall serve on the board in an advisory capacity and shall not be reimbursed for  
399 necessary expenses.

400 The appointed members of the board shall serve for terms of 5 years, except for persons  
401 appointed to fill vacancies, who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. The board  
402 shall hold an annual meeting in January and not less than 3 other times during the year. The  
403 University of Massachusetts Extension director shall attend all meetings of the board and shall

404 serve as secretary but shall have no vote in its deliberation. A simple majority of appointed  
405 voting members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The board may, by vote of its members  
406 then in office, adopt a policy for the conduct of business, including constitution of board  
407 membership. Policies may be amended or repealed by a 2/3 vote of its members.

408 SECTION 17. Chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
409 section 1A the following section:-

410 Section 1B. (a) “Agritourism”, an agriculturally related educational, entertainment,  
411 historical, cultural, commercial or recreational activity that allows or invites members of the  
412 general public to observe, participate in, experience and enjoy that activity, and serves to  
413 encourage the purchase of agricultural products that are produced on the land where the activity  
414 takes place, or on other land within the commonwealth that is primarily used for commercial  
415 agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture, horticulture, floriculture or viticulture and that is owned by  
416 the same person who owns the land where the activity takes place, provided that the activity  
417 conducted on land primarily used for commercial agriculture, aquaculture, silviculture,  
418 horticulture, floriculture or viticulture as provided in section 3 of chapter 40A.

419 (b) The department shall promulgate regulations that include minimum land and revenue  
420 thresholds for agritourism activities; provided, however, that such regulations shall ensure that  
421 agritourism activities shall not unreasonably detract or derogate from agricultural production.

422 SECTION 18. Said chapter 128 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
423 section 2E the following section:-

424 Section 2F. (a) The department of transitional assistance, in partnership with the  
425 department of agricultural resources and the department of public health, shall, subject to

426 appropriation, operate a healthy incentives program. The program shall provide that recipients  
427 actively receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, established pursuant to  
428 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 U.S.C. section 2011, hereinafter referred to as SNAP, shall  
429 be entitled to an additional benefit via their electronic benefit transfer card redeemable for  
430 eligible fruit and vegetable purchases at participating vendors in an amount to be established by  
431 the department. When expanding the number of participating vendors, the department shall  
432 prioritize improving access in areas with limited access to fresh, local produce and that are  
433 historically underserved by the program. The department shall collaborate with local food  
434 coalitions and nonprofit groups to develop community outreach strategies that ensure equitable  
435 access to, and knowledge of, the program.

436 (b) The department of transitional assistance and its partners may apply for any available  
437 federal programs such as the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program administered by the  
438 United States department of agriculture to provide matching benefits.

439 (c) The department of transitional assistance shall, annually on or before January 31,  
440 submit a report of the healthy incentives program's activities to the clerks of the house and the  
441 senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on children,  
442 families and persons with disabilities and the joint committee on agriculture and shall post the  
443 report on the department's website. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number  
444 of households utilizing the program, including household size, age and racial demographic  
445 information; (ii) the number of program transactions; (iii) the number and name of vendors  
446 processing program transactions; (iv) a breakdown of the total number of program participants  
447 and vendors, by their municipality; (v) the number of vendors, by their municipalities, who  
448 applied to be a vendor with the healthy incentives program but were not accepted as a vendor

449 due to funding or administrative shortages; (vi) the department’s efforts, plans and timeline for  
450 identifying geographic areas that are underserved by the program and increasing program  
451 activity in those areas, including metrics and factors to be used to make determinations for the  
452 addition and siting of vendors; and (vii) any further recommendations to improve the  
453 performance of the program.

454 SECTION 19. The department of agricultural resources, in administering the climate  
455 smart agriculture program, may prioritize projects that incorporate carbon dioxide removal  
456 methods including, but not limited to, biochar, terrestrial enhanced weathering and agricultural  
457 soils carbon sequestration. The department may, to the extent feasible, align the program’s  
458 standards for carbon dioxide removal with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural  
459 Resources Conservation Service, conservation practice standards that are applicable to carbon  
460 dioxide removal.

461 SECTION 20. The department of elementary and secondary education, in consultation  
462 with the department of agricultural resources, shall conduct a study and make recommendations  
463 on the feasibility of establishing additional county agricultural schools under chapter 74 of the  
464 General Laws.

465 The study shall: (i) assess the statewide and regional demand for agricultural and  
466 agricultural technical education pathways; (ii) evaluate the workforce needs across agricultural  
467 and other related sectors; and (iii) identify potential sites or host districts for new or expanded  
468 agricultural schools.

469 The department of elementary and secondary education and the department of  
470 agricultural resources shall solicit public input and hold not less than 4 public hearings to collect

471 public comment for the study, one of which shall be in Worcester county. Notice of said public  
472 hearings shall be provided to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees,  
473 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and Massachusetts Municipal Association.  
474 The department of elementary and secondary education shall post on their website a draft report  
475 not later than December 31, 2026 and hold 1 additional public hearing to solicit comment on said  
476 draft report. The department shall submit a final report with their findings and recommendations,  
477 including any regulatory or legislative changes that may be necessary to implement the  
478 recommendations, not later than July 1, 2027, to the clerks of the house of representatives and  
479 senate, the joint committee on education, the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries and the  
480 senate and house committees on ways and means.

481 SECTION 21. Not later than 1 year following the effective date of this act, the  
482 Massachusetts emergency management agency shall complete the first plan required under  
483 section 18BB of chapter 6A of the General Laws.

484 SECTION 22. Not later than 120 days following the effective date of this act, the  
485 Massachusetts department of business development shall promulgate regulations to implement  
486 section 10A1/2 of chapter 23A of the General Laws.

487 SECTION 23. Not later than 120 days following the effective date of this act, the  
488 department of agricultural resources shall promulgate regulations to implement section 34 of  
489 chapter 20 of the General Laws.

490 SECTION 24. Not later than December 31, 2026, the department of environmental  
491 protection shall establish regulations necessary to implement section 21 of chapter 21G of the  
492 General Laws.

493           SECTION 25. Not later than 6 months following the effective date of this act, the  
494 department of agricultural resources shall complete the first report required by subsection (e) of  
495 section 2A of chapter 61A of the General Laws.

496           SECTION 26. Not later than 1 year following the effective date of this act, the  
497 department of revenue shall establish and host on its website the registry and map required  
498 pursuant to section 25 of chapter 61A of the General Laws.