

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

March 6, 2009

SUBJECT: Sectional summary of CSHB 70() establishing the farm-to-school program in the Department of Natural Resources, and relating to school gardens and farms
(Work Order No. 26-LS0284\R)

TO: Representative Carl Gatto
Attn: Sandra Wilson

FROM: *tb*
Theresa Bannister
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill. As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1. Directs the commissioner of natural resources to implement the farm-to-school program established by AS 03.20.100.

Section 2. Sec. 03.20.100. Establishes the farm-to-school program.

Sec. 03.20.100(a). Establishes the farm-to-school program in the Department of Natural Resources to increase public school use of state-grown food.

Sec. 03.20.100(b). Directs the department to perform certain tasks, as prioritized in the subsection, in consultation with other listed state agencies. The tasks relate to uniform procurement policies and procedures, assisting the food industry to market food to public schools, assisting public schools to connect with local producers, mechanisms for increasing sales and supply predictability, educating students, advancing other farm-to-school activities, and program funding.

Sec. 03.20.100(c). Directs the department, in cooperation with the Department of Education and Early Development, to collect data on the activities under this section and to report biennially to the legislature.

Sec. 03.20.100(d). States that this section does not affect two statutes related to state agricultural and fisheries product preferences.

Sec. 03.20.100(e). Defines terms for the section.

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Section 3. Directs the Department of Education and Early Development to assist the Department of Natural Resources to develop and implement the farm-to-school program under AS 03.20.100.

Section 4. Sec. 14.30.375. Adds a new section relating to school gardens and farms.

Sec. 14.30.375(a). Allows a school district to authorize or operate a school garden or farm for educational purposes and for growing fruits and vegetables for the students.

Sec. 14.30.375(b). Requires a district to give students representing student organizations the opportunity to be involved in the operation of the garden or farm.

Sec. 14.30.375(c). Requires that, when the garden is used for education about agricultural practices, students be given the opportunity to learn about both organic and conventional growing methods.

Section 5. Repeals the provisions in this bill on July 1, 2013.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TLB:ljw
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