FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
2022 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor:  Stephen G. Handy
Senate Sponsor: ____________

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This bill enacts provisions to codify Utah's farm to school program.

Highlighted Provisions:
This bill:
- defines terms;
- creates the Utah Farm to Fork Commission (commission);
- provides the membership and duties of the commission;
- allows the commission to establish or coordinate with a task force to fulfill the
commission's duties; and
- requires the commission to administer a grant program to provide grants to schools,
childcare centers, nonprofit organizations, and farmers to establish or expand farm
to school programs.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:
None

Other Special Clauses:
None

Utah Code Sections Affected:
ENACTS:
   63C-25-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953
   63C-25-201, Utah Code Annotated 1953
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section 63C-25-101 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 25. UTAH FARM TO FORK COMMISSION


(1) "Childcare" center means a licensed childcare center that participates in a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers.

(2) "Commission" means the Utah Farm to Fork Commission created in Section 63C-25-201.

(3) "School" means any accredited K-12 school in the state.

(4) "Statewide farm to school strategic plan" means statewide plan to connect schools with nearby farms to:

(a) provide children with locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks;

(b) help children develop healthy eating habits;

(c) provide nutritional and agricultural education; and

(d) improve farmers' incomes and direct access to markets.

Section 2. Section 63C-25-201 is enacted to read:

Part 2. Commission Duties

63C-25-201. Utah Farm to Fork Commission.

(1) There is created the Utah Farm to Fork Commission.

(2) The commission consists of the following three members:

(a) the executive director of the Department of Health or the executive director's designee from among Department of Health employees;

(b) the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Food or the commissioner's designee from among Department of Agriculture and Food employees; and

(c) the state superintendent of public instruction appointed under Section 53E-3-301 or
the state superintendent's designee from among State Board of Education employees.

(3) A commission member may not receive salary or expenses for the member's service on the commission other than the existing salary and benefits related to the member's state employment.

(4) (a) A majority of the commission members constitutes a quorum.

(b) The action of a majority of a quorum constitutes an action of the commission.

(5) The Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and Food, and the State Board of Education shall:

(a) provide one full-time employee each:

(i) to oversee each entity's participation in the statewide farm to school strategic plan;

and

(ii) for whom the employee's duties under Subsection (5)(a) represent at least half of the employee's overall job duties; and

(b) jointly provide staff support to the commission.

Section 3. Section 63C-25-202 is enacted to read:


(1) The commission shall:

(a) identify impediments to providing locally produced fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and other nutritious, locally produced foods in school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks and seek to reduce those impediments;

(b) advise other state agencies and local agencies on actions to promote farm to school programs;

(c) promote communications between local farmers and schools and childcare centers and sales of food from local farmers to schools and childcare centers;

(d) develop a statewide farm to school strategic plan;

(e) maintain a farm to school knowledge base, including a database of producers, school gardens, and other relevant resources;

(f) host training or conference events for:

(i) school food service personnel and managers, farmers, and food distributors and processors concerning farm to school programs and food safety and procurement; and

(ii) knowledge and resources to farmers regarding sales within the farm to school
strategic plan;
   (g) establish a promotional program that provides educational resources for
classrooms, cafeterias, and gardens that showcase Utah-grown foods;
   (h) provide information on a website concerning the statewide farm to school strategic
plan; and
   (i) administer grants under Section 63C-25-301.
(2) The commission may establish or coordinate with a task force to fulfill the duties
described in this section.

Section 4. Section 63C-25-301 is enacted to read:

**Part 3. Farm to Fork Grant Program**

63C-25-301. Farm to fork grant program.
(1) Subject to legislative appropriations, the commission shall provide grants to
schools and childcare centers, in coordination with the State Board of Education, and to
nonprofit organizations and farmers for the creation and expansion of farm to school programs.
(2) The commission shall award a grant described in this section to a grant recipient
that submits to the commission a completed application, as provided by the commission, giving
preference to proposals that are innovative or that provide models that other schools and
childcare centers, nonprofit organizations, and farmers can adopt.
(3) A recipient of a grant under Subsection (1) may use the grant for projects that:
   (a) create, expand, diversify, or promote production, processing, marketing, and
distribution of locally produced food for sale to local schools and childcare centers;
   (b) create, expand, or renovate facilities, including purchases of equipment for the
facilities, that would ensure the use of locally produced food in local schools and childcare
centers;
   (c) provide, expand, or promote training for food service personnel, farmers, and
distributors; and
   (d) provide, expand, or promote nutritional and agricultural education in the classroom.
(4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
commission shall make rules to establish:
   (a) required elements of the grant application and project description; and
   (b) a formula to determine a grant recipient's grant amount under this section.
(5) The commission shall:

(a) consult with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Health, and State Board of Education to establish grant priorities for each fiscal year; and

(b) annually report regarding the administration and outcomes of the grants described in this section to:

(i) the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Health, and State Board of Education; and

(ii) before the November interim meeting, the Education Interim Committee.