

HB 2244 -- FARM TO TABLE ACT

SPONSOR: Black

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill changes and expands the Farm-to-School Program to the Farm-to-Table Program to include schools, correctional facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and military bases. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish program goals, including that participating institutions must purchase at least 10% of their food locally by December 31, 2019.

The bill also changes and expands the Farm-to-School Taskforce to the Farm-To-Table Taskforce to include a representative from the departments of Corrections and Health and Senior Services and a representative from one of the state's military bases. The Director of the Department of Corrections will appoint one person who is employed as a correctional facility food service director and the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services will appoint one person who is employed as a hospital or nursing home food services director.

This bill is the same as HB 2121 (2016) and similar to HB 1184 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the current Farm-to-School Program has been successful and should be expanded to include other types of institutions. This bill would allow hospitals, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and military bases to also participate in the program.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Black.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.