

Assembly Bill No. 1731

CHAPTER 718

An act to add Chapter 14.6 (commencing with Section 49026) to Division 17 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to food and agriculture.

[Approved by Governor September 28, 2026. Filed with
Secretary of State September 28, 2026.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1731, Wilson. Office of Farm to Fork: Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program.

Existing law creates the Office of Farm to Fork within the Department of Food and Agriculture, and requires the office, to the extent that resources are available, to work with various entities, including, among others, the agricultural industry and other organizations involved in promoting food access, to increase the amount of agricultural products available to underserved communities and schools in the state.

This bill would require the office, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to establish the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program for the purpose of identifying vendors in California that have the capacity to provide healthy foods to California public institutions, as defined. The bill would require the office, to the extent that funding is available, to implement initiatives under the program, including, but not limited to, an initiative to develop a list of approved vendors that public institutions can use to procure food products that are whole or minimally processed and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 14.6 (commencing with Section 49026) is added to Division 17 of the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

CHAPTER 14.6. HEALTHY FOOD FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ACT

49026. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Act.

49027. For purposes of this chapter, all of the following definitions apply:

(a) "Local educational agency" has the same meaning as defined in Section 49557.5 of the Education Code.

(b) “Office” means the Office of Farm to Fork created pursuant to Section 49001.

(c) “Program” means the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program established pursuant to Section 49028.

(d) “Public institution” means any state, city, city and county, or county agency, including a public postsecondary educational institution and a local educational agency.

(e) “Public postsecondary educational institution” means the California Community Colleges and the California State University, but not the University of California.

49028. (a) Upon an appropriation by the Legislature for purposes of this chapter, the Office of Farm to Fork shall establish the Healthy Food for California Public Institutions Program for the purpose of identifying vendors in California that have the capacity to provide healthy foods to California public institutions.

(b) To the extent that funding is available, the office shall implement initiatives under the program, including, but not limited to, an initiative to do all of the following:

(1) Develop a list of approved vendors that public institutions can use to procure food products that are whole or minimally processed and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems.

(2) Establish an application process to approve vendors that meet all of the following requirements:

(A) The vendor sources and distributes food products that are whole or are minimally processed, and are grown or produced in California using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems. If the vendor sources food products from multiple farms and ranches, 50 percent or more of the total farmers and ranchers that the vendor sources food products from are California farms and ranches using climate-smart agriculture practices and climate-smart agriculture production systems.

(B) The vendor is capable of serving public institutions.

(C) The vendor tracks and readily provides itemized source identification information, including the farm or ranch of origin, and certifications to the office.

(D) The vendor keeps records of purchase invoices from sourced farms and ranches. After a vendor is approved, the vendor may be subject to an audit of its purchasing.

(E) The vendor aligns with the priorities of the office.

(F) The vendor maintains robust compliance that ensures the farms and ranches that the vendor sources food products from comply with all laws, rules, and regulations, including food safety requirements and standards.

(3) Publish the list of approved vendors on the department’s internet website, including the region that each vendor serves and their contact information.

(4) Ensure that vendors throughout the geographic regions of the state are selected.

49029. Within one year of the office establishing the program, and every three years thereafter, the office shall submit a report on the status of the program to the Legislature, in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code. The report shall include information on the progress of the program, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

(a) The number and type of public institutions served by approved vendors, and the volumes of food products provided to each public institution.

(b) The number and type, with respect to business model, of vendors on the approved vendor list.

(c) The benefits and challenges experienced by public institutions using the program.