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HOUSE BILL NO. 830

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Cousins)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.4, relating to Department of Education; farm to school programs; guidance and resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-23.4 as follows:

§ 22.1-23.4. Department; farm to school programs; guidance and resources.

A. As used in this section, "farm to school program" means any program (i) whereby public schools purchase and feature prominently in school meals locally produced food or (ii) that involves experiential student learning opportunities relating to local food and agriculture, including school and community garden programs and local farm visits.

B. The Department shall (i) assess existing farm to school programs within the Commonwealth to identify and disseminate to each local school board best practices for implementing and sustaining such programs, (ii) establish and distribute to each local school board a guidance document for the establishment and operation of school garden programs, and (iii) provide information and resources to each local school board to assist it in leveraging grant funds to support farm to school programs.

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