

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 337—ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON

MARCH 18, 2013

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Encourages public schools to establish and participate in programs that promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by children. (BDR S-45)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; encouraging schools to establish and participate in programs that promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

- 1 This bill strongly encourages each school to establish and participate in
2 programs to promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by children.

1 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity has increased dramatically in
2 recent years, and the quality of children's diets is a subject of
3 considerable public concern; and

4 WHEREAS, Poor nutrition has been linked to childhood obesity
5 as well as behavioral problems, health issues, mental health issues,
6 dental problems, learning deficiencies and poor educational
7 outcomes in children; and

8 WHEREAS, Studies show that proper nutrition is essential to a
9 child's well-being and educational success, reduces rates of
10 childhood obesity and enhances the physical, mental and emotional
11 health of children; and

12 WHEREAS, The consumption of fruits and vegetables is
13 important for children to receive proper nutrition, yet fruit and
14 vegetable consumption among children is far below recommended
15 levels; and



* A B 3 3 7 *

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture's Fresh
2 Fruit and Vegetable Program encourages the consumption of fruits
3 and vegetables by making fresh fruit and vegetable snacks available
4 at no cost to all children in participating schools; and

5 WHEREAS, Farm-to-school programs connect schools and local
6 and regional farms with the goals of providing schools with
7 minimally processed farm products, serving healthy meals in school
8 cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing educational
9 opportunities in the areas of agriculture, health and nutrition, and
10 supporting local and regional farmers; and

11 WHEREAS, Children who are directly involved in growing fresh
12 fruits and vegetables through a school garden program are more
13 willing to consume fresh fruits and vegetables, demonstrate
14 increased self-esteem, and develop a sense of ownership and
15 responsibility; and

16 WHEREAS, The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, farm-to-
17 school programs and school gardens teach children more healthful
18 eating habits and assist in efforts to provide children with
19 opportunities for better nutrition; now, therefore

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21 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
22 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
23

24 **Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares:

25 1. That the members of the 77th Session of the Nevada
26 Legislature strongly encourage each school to participate in the
27 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and establish a farm-to-school
28 program and a school garden program to promote the consumption
29 of fresh fruits and vegetables by children; and

30 2. That the board of trustees of each school district, the
31 superintendent of schools of each school district and the principal of
32 each school within the school district are hereby challenged to bring
33 about the change encouraged by subsection 1.

34 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

