
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 418 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, STREET, ARGALL, EICHELBERGER, GORDNER,
AUMENT, RAFFERTY, KILLION, BROWNE, HUGHES, VULAKOVICH,
RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, MENSCH, FOLMER, BARTOLOTTA
AND REGAN, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States and the United States
2 Department of Agriculture to include milk in its Senior
3 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's dairy industry continues to struggle
5 under a host of complex pressures; and

6 WHEREAS, By including fresh milk as an eligible product in
7 its Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), the
8 Congress of the United States and the United States Department
9 of Agriculture may be able to help local dairy farmers as well
10 as senior citizens in need; and

11 WHEREAS, Established in 1993, SFMNP gives recipients a list
12 of participating farmers and farmers' markets when they receive
13 their checks, and the checks are then redeemed for fresh fruits
14 and vegetables grown in Pennsylvania; and

15 WHEREAS, Each eligible recipient receives four \$5 SFMNP
16 checks to redeem at qualified farmers' markets or roadside
17 stands; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 800 farm stands and 200 farmers' markets
2 in this Commonwealth participate in SFMNP; and

3 WHEREAS, A large and reliable market exists for milk through
4 SFMNP, which provides low-income seniors with coupons that can
5 be exchanged for eligible foods, including nutritious, locally
6 grown fruits, vegetables and fresh-cut herbs, at farmers'
7 markets and roadside stands and through community-supported
8 agriculture programs; and

9 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, SFMNP is administered by the
10 Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth, with vouchers
11 distributed through county Area Agencies on Aging; and

12 WHEREAS, Low-income seniors are generally defined as
13 individuals who are 60 years of age or older and who have
14 household incomes of not more than 185% of the Federal poverty
15 guidelines; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
17 urge the Congress of the United States and the United States
18 Department of Agriculture to include milk as an eligible product
19 in its Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, thereby helping
20 senior citizens in need to obtain this healthy product, boosting
21 the domestic consumption of milk and assisting our dairy farmers
22 who remain a key component in Pennsylvania's agriculture
23 industry; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the United States Secretary of Agriculture and each member of
26 Congress from Pennsylvania.