



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## Senate Passes “Buy From the Backyard” Act to Boost Local Agricultural Purchases

STEPHEN M. SALAND March 18, 2012

| ISSUE: **AGRICULTURE**

The New York State Senate today passed the “Buy From the Backyard Act” to promote the purchase of food grown or produced locally. The bill (S.2468) requires state agencies with food contracts to buy at least 20 percent of their food from New York sources.

The bill expands upon an existing law, which creates a program that encourages the purchase of local food products by state agencies. Mental health facilities, prisons, universities and state institutions that have food contracts would be required to purchase at least 20 percent that is grown, produced, harvested or processed in New York State.

The bill expands upon Senator Libous’s Buy From the Backyard initiative in Broome, Tioga, and Chenango counties, which promotes buying local among consumers and encourages investments in New York agriculture.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly.