



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael H. Ranzenhofer

## State Senate Approves Bill to Increase School District Purchasing Limit for Local Produce

SENATOR MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER May 1, 2017

| ISSUE: **AGRICULTURE, REGULATIONS**

**Albany, NY**– State Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer has announced today that legislation (S4281), raising the monetary limit to \$150,000 for school districts to purchase local produce without approval from the State Department of Education, has passed the New York State Senate unanimously.

Under existing law, a waiver from the State Education Department is required for food purchases above \$50,000. The bill, sponsored by Senator Ranzenhofer, would amend state procurement laws to conform with Federal rules.

“Requiring a waiver at current levels creates unnecessary, burdensome paperwork for school districts, discouraging the purchase of food products from local farmers,” said Ranzenhofer. “This legislation makes it easier for schools to buy more local produce and support the local agriculture economy, while offering healthier options– more fresh fruits and vegetables– to students.”

The New York Farm Bureau supports the initiative. The bill will be sent to the State Assembly. The legislation is sponsored by Assemblywoman Addie Jenne.

The 2017-18 State Budget raised the threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000. In 2016, Senator Ranzenhofer successfully worked to establish an initial threshold at \$25,000.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### 2017-S4281

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- Introduced
  
- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
- ◦ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
  
- Delivered to Governor
  
- Signed By Governor
  
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Increases the purchasing limit for school districts to order from certain farmers without a waiver

February 08, 2017

In Senate Committee [Local Government](#)

Sponsored by [Michael H. Ranzenhofer](#)

Do you support this bill?