



**ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK STATE YMCAs
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT
Legislative Bill**

Bill # 24

**Referred to Committee:
6**

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Action on the Bill

Assembly

Senate

___ Passed

___ Passed

___ Defeated

___ Defeated

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AN ACT TO: Decrease the cost of organic foods, and make more organic food available to schools.

**The People of the State of New York, represented
in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:**

Purpose

Organic, non-gmo foods usually cost 20% more than their gmo counterparts, and this makes it so that low-income households cannot necessarily afford quality food, and neither can schools. This bill would make sure that people and schools are able to get this more nutritious food for a price they can afford.

Summary of Provisions

Section 1: Definitions

Junk Food: food having an average of less than 10% of daily fiber, calcium, vitamin D, and vitamin C.

Organic food: Produced by farmers who emphasize the use of renewable resources and then conservation of soil and water to enhance environmental quality for future generation.

GMO and Non GMO: A GMO is a process where genes from DNA of one species are extracted and artificially forced into the genes of an unrelated plant or animal. A Non-GMO is a food that isn't GMO

Low Income Household: A household earning 200% of the national poverty standard

Poor Schools: Schools where more than 50% of the population are eligible for free or reduced meals.

Section 2

This bill will raise taxes on junk food from the normal 8% to 10% state and county sales tax with the addition of a 2% tax. Funds raised by this tax will go into a special fund, being collected by the county. This will be distributed to schools by the organization School Food Focus and distributed to registered organic farms by tax refunds. Both Distributions will be based on demonstrated need.

Justification

Many schools and low-income families are feeding children low-quality food because they cannot afford organic, non-gmo foods. This bill would provide funding to participating farmers, so they can sell their products for less. If they do so people would be better able to provide nutritious, organic foods for their children. Schools would also be better able to afford organic products which means school children will be eating healthier food than the normal school lunch fare Instead they would have salads and other healthy, non gmo options.

Fiscal Implications

New Yorkers spend roughly \$1,200 a year on junk food. This number would be increased to about \$1,300 with the tax. This works out to about \$.27 a day for most New York Families. There are 7.269 Million households in New York State, so the total fiscal impact would be to raise approximately \$727 million dollars.

Effective Date

This bill will be executed in 2019.