



Sen. Mattie Hunter

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10400HB4922sam001

LRB104 17466 HLH 37736 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4922

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 4922 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois
6 is amended by adding Section 605-1106 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-1106 new)

8 Sec. 605-1106. Emerging and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
9 Infrastructure and Market Access Grant Program.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

11 (1) Emerging and socially disadvantaged farmers
12 continue to face systemic and structural barriers that
13 constrain agricultural production, business viability, and
14 participation in local and regional food systems. Yet
15 these farmers are often at the front lines of serving
16 communities facing food insecurity, diet-related disease,

1 and economic hardship.

2 (2) Targeted investment in these farmers will increase
3 food security and rebuild local economies in communities
4 where that investment is needed most.

5 (3) Deploying funds through a flexible, accessible
6 grant program will strengthen Illinois' agricultural
7 economy and improve public health outcomes across urban,
8 suburban, and rural communities.

9 (b) As used in this Section:

10 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
11 Opportunity.

12 "Eligible applicant" means an applicant for a grant under
13 this Section who meets the criteria set forth in subsection
14 (e).

15 "Emerging farmer" means a farmer who is a member of or
16 represents one or more of the following groups and who has had
17 their access to land, credit, capital, insurance, technical
18 assistance, education, training, markets, or participation in
19 public or private agricultural programs diminished as compared
20 to others in comparable economic circumstances as a result of
21 their membership in that group:

22 (1) women;

23 (2) veterans;

24 (3) persons with disabilities;

25 (4) American Indian or Alaska Native persons;

26 (5) members of communities of color;

1 (6) farmers under 40 years of age;

2 (7) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
3 intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+) persons; and

4 (8) urban farmers.

5 "Food desert" has the meaning given in Section 5 of the
6 Grocery Initiative Act.

7 "Heirs' property operator" means a person who farms real
8 property that is held as heirs' property, including land to
9 which title is held by multiple heirs without a formal
10 partition or probate.

11 "Infrastructure" means facilities, improvements, and
12 systems necessary for agricultural production and market
13 access, including land preparation, on-farm utilities,
14 post-harvest handling, processing, storage, aggregation, and
15 distribution.

16 "Social disadvantage" means diminished opportunity and
17 disproportionate barriers to entering, operating, sustaining,
18 or expanding a farm business that are reasonably linked to
19 discrimination and not solely attributable to individual
20 business resources and decision-making.

21 "Socially disadvantaged farmer" means an individual farmer
22 or aspiring farmer who has experienced, or whose farming
23 operation has experienced, social disadvantage as a result of
24 systemic or chronic discrimination or bias in access to land,
25 credit, capital, insurance, technical assistance, education,
26 training, markets, or participation in public or private

1 agricultural programs, on the basis of one or more actual or
2 perceived characteristics, including race, color, ethnicity,
3 national origin, ancestry, sex, pregnancy or
4 childbirth-related status, sexual orientation, gender identity
5 or expression, religion, age, disability, marital or familial
6 status, or immigration or citizenship status.

7 "Underserved community" means a census tract,
8 municipality, or geographic area in which at least 20% of
9 residents live below the federal poverty guidelines published
10 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services or that
11 meets criteria for disproportionate economic hardship, limited
12 access to essential services, or historic disinvestment,
13 including barriers related to income, race or ethnicity,
14 disability, age, language access, or educational attainment.

15 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall
16 establish the Emerging and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers
17 Infrastructure and Market Access Grant Program to provide
18 grants to eligible applicants for:

19 (1) improving access to local food in communities
20 experiencing food insecurity;

21 (2) strengthening local and regional food systems; and

22 (3) increasing farm productivity and resilience among
23 emerging farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers.

24 (d) The Department shall, subject to appropriation, make
25 grants for the purposes described in subsection (c) in
26 accordance with the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.

1 Nothing in this Section shall limit the Department's ability
2 to implement this program through one or more grant
3 administrators, as determined by the Department.

4 The Department may also provide technical assistance
5 grants to support emerging farmers or socially disadvantaged
6 farmers. That support shall include information requisite to
7 support program applicants and awardees, including, but not
8 limited to, translation and accessibility support, training on
9 application completion and compliance, and assistance with
10 project planning and implementation to ensure projects meet
11 program requirements.

12 (e) An eligible applicant must (i) be an Illinois-resident
13 farmer or a not-for-profit farm based in Illinois, (ii) have
14 operated a farm for less than 10 years immediately before the
15 date of submission of an application for funding under this
16 program, and (iii) meet at least one of the following
17 criteria:

18 (1) the farm is located within a food desert;

19 (2) the farm is located within an underserved
20 community;

21 (3) the farm earns less than \$350,000 in gross income
22 annually; or

23 (4) the farm comprises less than 5 acres.

24 (f) In awarding grants, priority shall be given to: (i)
25 socially disadvantaged farmers; (ii) emerging farmers; (iii)
26 heirs' property operators; and (iv) cooperatives or

1 collectives controlled or governed by one or more emerging or
2 socially disadvantaged farmers. Awards to not-for-profit
3 entities may not exceed 50% of the total grants awarded unless
4 grant funds would otherwise go unawarded for that funding
5 opportunity. The Department may give additional preference to
6 applicants that have not previously received a State grant
7 from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or a
8 federal Value-Added Producer Grant.

9 (g) Grant funds may be used for:

10 (1) capital and infrastructure, including greenhouses,
11 high and low tunnels, hoop houses, cold storage,
12 refrigeration, freezers, wash-pack stations, processing
13 equipment, irrigation systems, fencing, on-farm utilities,
14 soil remediation, land purchase, and land preparation;

15 (2) equipment and supplies, including tractors,
16 implements, hand tools, harvest and post-harvest
17 equipment, and food safety and quality control equipment;

18 (3) operations and working capital, including seeds,
19 livestock, feed, fertilizer, soil testing and soil inputs,
20 labor, payroll, payroll taxes, stipends, employee
21 benefits, workforce training, apprenticeships, seasonal
22 staffing, insurance, certifications (including Good
23 Agricultural Practices (GAP), organic, or Certified
24 Naturally Grown), licensing, fuel, utilities, and
25 operating supplies;

26 (4) market access and distribution, including vehicles

1 and refrigerated vehicles, aggregation and food hub
2 participation costs, branding, packaging, labeling, market
3 fees, and e-commerce or direct-to-consumer infrastructure;
4 and

5 (5) other expenditures the Department determines are
6 prudent and necessary to meet the goals of this Act.

7 (h) If a violation of a grant agreement is not cured within
8 the period set forth in the notice of violation, the
9 Department may use any procedures set forth in the Grant
10 Accountability and Transparency Act and the Grant Funds
11 Recovery Act.

12 (i) The Department shall adopt rules to implement this
13 Section and may allow eligibility verification through
14 self-attestation or other reasonable methods.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.".