

HOUSE BILL NO. 2751

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TRENT.

5761H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 261, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the farmer equity act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 261, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 261.221, to read as follows:

261.221. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Farmer Equity Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Department", the department of agriculture;

(2) "Socially disadvantaged farmer", a farmer who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group;

(3) "Socially disadvantaged group", a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group without regard to that member's personal qualities. "Socially disadvantaged group" includes, but is not limited to, African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders;

(4) "Urbanized area", a geographic location with at least fifty thousand inhabitants.

3. (1) The department shall ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, policies, and programs. This subdivision shall also apply to socially disadvantaged farmers in urbanized areas.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **(2) The department shall:**

19 **(a) Consult with the director of the department of natural resources, the chair of**
20 **the Missouri housing development commission, the director of the department of health**
21 **and senior services, and other interested parties of the public and private sector of the state**
22 **on opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers to coordinate state programs;**

23 **(b) Disseminate information regarding opportunities provided by:**

24 **a. The United States Department of Agriculture;**

25 **b. The United States Environmental Protection Agency;**

26 **c. The federal Government Accountability Office;**

27 **d. The federal Office of Management and Budget; and**

28 **e. Other federal agencies that have programs that may assist socially disadvantaged**
29 **farmers; and**

30 **(c) Evaluate opportunities for the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers in**
31 **boards, committees, commissions, and other similar positions created by the department.**

32 **4. On or before January 1, 2021, the department shall submit a report to the**
33 **governor and the general assembly on efforts to serve socially disadvantaged farmers in**
34 **this state. The report shall include recommendations on how to improve processes to**
35 **include socially disadvantaged farmers.**

36 **5. The department shall make available information about resources, potential**
37 **funding, and procedures to establish a community garden. The information shall be**
38 **published on its website and in a number of brochures it deems appropriate to distribute**
39 **to local governments. At a minimum, the information shall instruct individuals, entities,**
40 **and local governments how to:**

41 **(1) Acquire abandoned land for a community garden;**

42 **(2) Apply to grants supporting community gardens;**

43 **(3) Suggest procedures to manage membership and ownership of plots; and**

44 **(4) Transfer ownership of the land to local government if it is unused.**

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