
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 283 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COMITTA, FONTANA, DILLON, CAPPELLETTI,
BREWSTER, COSTA, KEARNEY, VOGEL AND SAVAL, JANUARY 30, 2023

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, JANUARY 30, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in crop insurance, further providing for
3 definitions, for crop insurance financial assistance and for
4 funding.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 4703 of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding definitions to read:
9 § 4703. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 "Cover crop." A crop for seasonal cover or other
15 conservation purposes, such as grasses, legumes and forbs, and
16 primarily used for erosion control, soil health improvement and
17 water quality improvement. The term includes a cover crop
18 managed and terminated according to United States Department of
19 Agriculture guidelines that is not considered a crop for crop

1 insurance purposes.

2 * * *

3 "Risk management agency" or "RMA." The Risk Management
4 Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

5 Section 2. Sections 4706 and 4707 of Title 3 are amended to
6 read:

7 § 4706. Crop insurance financial assistance.

8 (a) General rule.--The department may provide crop insurance
9 financial assistance to eligible producers for Federal crop
10 insurance in an amount up to 10% of the cost of the insurance
11 premiums in years in which funds are appropriated or made
12 available to the department. If sufficient funds are not
13 available to provide for up to 10% of the cost of the insurance
14 premiums, the department shall prorate the available funds among
15 all the producers of agricultural commodities who applied for
16 and received Federal crop insurance for that crop year.

17 (b) Crop insurance rebate program.--The department may
18 establish a crop insurance premium rebate program to provide
19 rebates in the amount of \$5 for each acre of a cover crop
20 planted for crop insurance premiums paid on the acres. In
21 providing for the crop insurance premium rebates under this
22 subsection, the department:

23 (1) May cooperate with RMA and may cooperate with any
24 related Federal agency, State agency or agricultural
25 organization.

26 (2) May develop definitions, procedures for verification
27 of cover crop planting, an application and process for
28 submission after a cover crop is planted on the acres for
29 which the person applies for a crop insurance premium rebate
30 and award of rebates under this subsection.

1 (3) May not provide a crop insurance premium rebate
2 under this subsection for the planting of a cover crop on an
3 acre for which funding for planting a cover crop is provided
4 from a Federal or State grant or incentive program other than
5 this subsection.

6 (4) May conduct investigations as needed.

7 (5) Shall promulgate or revise regulations, subject to
8 the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the
9 Regulatory Review Act, necessary to implement this
10 subsection.

11 § 4707. Funding.

12 (a) General rule.--The department is authorized to use funds
13 specifically appropriated by the General Assembly for the
14 purposes of this chapter and any funds, contributions or
15 payments which may be made available to the department by
16 another State agency, the Federal Government or any public or
17 private source for the purpose of implementing this chapter.

18 (b) Supplement not supplant.--The department may request
19 supplement appropriations from the General Assembly for the
20 purpose of providing additional funding for the crop insurance
21 premium rebate program as necessary. Appropriated money shall
22 not supplant any money received through any other Federal, State
23 or other department funding source.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.