

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 772

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Turner, Singleton, Ruiz, Cruz-Perez, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Haider, Sumter, Park, Assemblymen Freiman, Stanley, Assemblywomen Speight and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Directs Department of Agriculture to establish New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Economic Growth Committee on February 10, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of a New Jersey Minority,
2 Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry and supplementing
3 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall establish a New
9 Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.
10 Through the Farm Liaison^{1, 1} designated pursuant to section 1 of
11 P.L.2019, c.94 (C.4:1-48), the department shall:

12 (1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,
13 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, and other farmers in the State
14 who have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance
15 programs, **and including** programs for beginning farmer loans,
16 emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans,
17 guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm
18 ownership down payment loans, microloans, and other business
19 assistance offered to farmers in the State;

20 (2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially
21 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive
22 notification of opportunities to apply for **such loans**¹ and
23 participate in **such farm loan assistance and business assistance**¹
24 programs;

25 (3) assist in the prioritization of **registry**¹ applications **for**
26 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,
27 and historically underserved farmers] of State registrants, in
28 accordance with subsection b. of this section¹;

29 (4) provide each State registrant with information concerning
30 the federal USDA register; and

31 (5) provide each State registrant the opportunity to register with
32 the federal USDA register.

33 b. In cooperation with other State agencies, departments,
34 independent authorities, and lending institutions in the State, the
35 department shall assist each State registrant to apply for assistance
36 programs, farm loan programs, beginning farmer loans, emergency
37 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed
38 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down
39 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available
40 to farmers in the State.

41 c. To the greatest extent possible, the department shall ensure
42 that¹ the criteria for inclusion in the New Jersey Minority, Women,
43 and Underserved Farmer Registry is the same as the criteria for

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SEG committee amendments adopted February 10, 2022.

1 inclusion in the federal USDA register so that any State registrant
2 may be included in both registries. Whenever the criteria for
3 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any
4 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall
5 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and
6 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of
7 farmers.

8 d. Not more than 180 days after the establishment of the State
9 registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department shall:

10 (1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers
11 who have registered on the federal USDA register;

12 (2) notify any State registrant not also registered with the
13 federal USDA register of the benefits of registering with the federal
14 USDA register; and

15 (3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal
16 USDA register.

17 e. The department, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure
18 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt rules and
19 regulations necessary to implement this act.

20 f. As used in this section:

21 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

22 “Federal USDA register” means the United States Department of
23 Agriculture Minority Farm Register and any other similar register
24 for minority, women, and socially disadvantaged farmers,
25 administered by the Farm Service Agency of the United States
26 Department of Agriculture.

27 “LGBTQIA+” means a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,
28 pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersex, agender,
29 asexual, questioning, and other non-heterosexual-identifying
30 community.

31 “State registrant” means a minority, woman, disabled,
32 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, or historically underserved
33 farmer registered with the New Jersey Minority, Women, and
34 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.
35 of ¹this section ¹1 of this act¹.

36 “State registry” means the New Jersey Minority, Women, and
37 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.
38 of ¹this section ¹1 of this act¹.

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.