

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1344

Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY COLE, HAYES, RUDY, STAIRS, HERSHEY, ARNOLD,
STEELMAN, BISHOP, FREEMAN, BILLOW, PESCI, SURRA, BELFANTI,
PETRARCA, COY, STUBAN, HANNA, CARONE, KREBS, FLEAGLE,
SCHEETZ, ARMSTRONG, LUCYK, COLAIZZO, CHADWICK, JOHNSON,
SEMMELE AND TRICH, MAY 8, 1991

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 14, 1991

AN ACT

1 Relating to agriculture and rural youth; creating an Agriculture
2 and Rural Youth Organization Grant Program; imposing duties
3 on the Department of Agriculture; and making an
4 appropriation.

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

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Agricultural
9 and Rural Youth Development Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Agriculture and rural youth organization." Any organization
15 composed mainly of youth and organized to promote development in
16 the areas of agriculture, rural community leadership, vocational
17 training and peer fellowship. The term includes, but is not

1 limited to, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Ag in the classroom,
2 Future Homemakers of America and vocational education programs.

3 "Board." The State Agriculture and Rural Youth Development
4 Board.

5 "Department." The Department of Agriculture of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Program." The Agricultural and Rural Youth Organization
8 Grant Program.

9 Section 3. Board membership.

10 The board shall consist of the following members:

11 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture, who shall serve as
12 chairperson.

13 (2) The Secretary of Education.

14 (3) One representative from the Pennsylvania Agriculture
15 Teachers Association and one from the Penn State Cooperative
16 Extension, both of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

17 (4) The Statewide president of the Future Farmers of
18 America.

19 (5) The Statewide president of the 4-H.

20 (6) One representative of the Pennsylvania Rural
21 Coalition.

22 (7) The majority chairman and the minority chairman of
23 the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the Senate and
24 the majority chairman and the minority chairman of the
25 Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee of the House of
26 Representatives.

27 Section 4. Authorization and purpose.

28 (a) Grant program.--The department, in consultation with the
29 board, shall establish a program of grants to agriculture and
30 rural youth organizations qualifying to receive grants under

1 this act.

2 (b) Purpose.--Grants awarded under the provisions of this
3 act may be used for any of the following purposes:

4 (1) To cover the costs of special projects conducted by
5 the organization and approved by the board.

6 (2) For educational programs conducted by the
7 organization and approved by the board.

8 (3) For educational seminars and field trips conducted
9 by the organization and approved by the board.

10 (4) For agricultural safety training programs conducted
11 by the organization and approved by the board.

12 (5) For certain capital projects and equipment purchases
13 approved by the board.

14 (c) Guidelines.--The department, with approval of the board,
15 shall establish guidelines to award grants for the purposes set
16 forth in subsection (b) and other purposes approved by the
17 board.

18 Section 5. Applications.

19 (a) Application procedure.--An agriculture and rural youth
20 organization may make application at the time, in the manner and
21 containing any information as the department may require. The
22 department shall determine from the information provided whether
23 the application is eligible for consideration by the board.

24 (b) Annual meeting.--The board shall meet annually to award
25 grants to qualifying organizations.

26 (c) Other meetings.--The board shall meet at the call of the
27 chairperson to conduct business related to the award of grants.

28 Section 6. Grants.

29 (a) General rule.--Grants in an amount not to exceed \$2,500
30 shall be awarded to qualifying agriculture and rural youth

1 organizations selected by the board to receive the awards.

2 (b) Matching funds.--Grants in an amount not to exceed
3 \$15,000 shall be awarded to qualifying agriculture and rural
4 youth organizations selected by the board to receive these
5 awards for the purposes of capital projects. Grants for capital
6 projects must be matched by private funds in an amount equal to
7 the State grant.

8 (c) Annual allocation.--The FIRST annual allocation of <—
9 grants to qualifying organizations shall not exceed \$150,000. <—
10 ~~per fiscal year.~~ THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH ANNUAL ALLOCATION <—
11 THRESHOLDS FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

12 Section 7. Regulations.

13 The department is charged with administering the provisions
14 of this act and is authorized to prescribe, adopt and enforce
15 program policy guidelines ~~and~~ OR regulations relating to the <—
16 administration and enforcement of this act.

17 Section 8. ~~Funds~~ FUNDING. <—

18 The department shall use ~~\$500,000, or as much thereof as is~~ <—
19 ~~available,~~ AS MUCH MONEYS AS ARE NECESSARY AND AVAILABLE from <—
20 the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation assets for the
21 implementation of the provisions of this act.

22 Section 9. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect in 60 days.