

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1236

Sponsor: REPRESENTATIVE MOUL

Printer's No. 1678

1 Amend Bill, page 1, line 4, by striking out the period after
2 "program" and inserting
3 ; in agriculture and youth development, further providing for
4 definitions and for grants; in Commonwealth Specialty Crop
5 Block Grant Program, further providing for Commonwealth
6 Specialty Crop Block Grant Fund; in Urban Agricultural
7 Infrastructure Grant Program, further providing for
8 legislative intent, for definitions, for grant program and
9 for distribution of grant money; and, in Farm-to-School
10 Program, further providing for findings and declarations, for
11 grant program and for applications and review of
12 applications.

13 Amend Bill, page 1, lines 7 through 9, by striking out all of
14 said lines and inserting

15 Section 1. Chapter 101 heading and sections 10101, 10102,
16 10103, 10104, 10105, 10106, 10301, 10305(a), 10508(a), 10701,
17 10702, 10703(a), (b) and (e)(2)(ii) and (viii), 10704, 10902,
18 10904 and 10906(b) of Title 3 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
19 Statutes are amended to read:

20 Amend Bill, page 9, line 13, by striking out all of said line
21 and inserting

22 § 10301. Definitions.

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

26 "Agriculture and youth organization." An organization
27 composed mainly of youth, or an organization with programs that
28 benefit youth, and organized to promote development in the areas
29 of agriculture, community leadership, vocational training and
30 peer fellowship. The term includes[, but is not limited to,
31 Pennsylvania FFA, 4-H, Ag in the Classroom, the Family, Career
32 and Community Leaders of America and vocational education
33 programs] a school district.

34 "Board." The State Agriculture and Youth Development Board.

1 "Program." The Agriculture and Youth Organization Grant

2 Program.

3 § 10305. Grants.

4 (a) General rule.--The department shall make grants in an
5 amount not to exceed \$7,500 to qualifying agriculture and youth
6 organizations upon the recommendation and approval of the board.

7 * * *

8 § 10508. Commonwealth Specialty Crop Block Grant Fund.

9 (a) Establishment.--The Commonwealth Specialty Crop Block
10 Grant Fund is established as a special nonlapsing fund in the
11 State Treasury. [All money derived from fines and civil
12 penalties, judgments and interest collected or imposed under
13 this chapter shall be paid into the fund.] All money placed into
14 the fund and the interest the fund accrues are hereby
15 appropriated to the department on a continuing basis for any
16 activities necessary to meet the requirements of this chapter.

17 * * *

18 § 10701. [Legislative intent.

19 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish a
20 reimbursement grant program under which persons who implement
21 projects that improve agriculture infrastructure in urban areas
22 and that focus on aggregation of agricultural products, sharing
23 of resources and support for community development resources may
24 be reimbursed some portion of the costs of the projects.]

25 (Reserved).

26 § 10702. Definitions.

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

30 "Eligible project." A project that the department determines
31 does [all] one or more of the following:

32 (1) Improves agricultural infrastructure in an urban
33 area.

34 (2) Improves or facilitates the aggregation of
35 agricultural products in an urban area.

36 (3) Entails the sharing of resources among urban
37 agricultural operations, agricultural producers or community
38 organizations.

39 (4) Supports community or economic development in the
40 project area.

41 "Person." An individual, partnership, association, firm,
42 corporation or any other legal entity.

43 "Program." The Urban Agricultural Infrastructure Grant
44 Program established under this chapter.

45 § 10703. Grant program.

46 (a) Availability.--Grants under this chapter shall only be
47 offered [in a fiscal year in which and] to the extent funding is
48 made available to the department. The following apply:

49 (1) If funding is exhausted or otherwise unavailable,
50 the department shall be under no obligation to provide grants
51 under this chapter.

(2) Grant money may be prorated or offered as a percentage of actual costs, as determined by the department and set forth in an order by the secretary, to spread available money to a larger number of eligible projects. The secretary shall transmit notice of an order to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

(b) Reimbursement grants.--Grants under this chapter shall be reimbursement grants. The following shall apply:

(1) The amount of [reimbursement] a grant shall be based on actual eligible costs submitted by an approved applicant for an approved project [during any fiscal year in which grants are offered].

(2) Grant [reimbursement money shall be limited to 50% or less] money shall not exceed 85% of the costs of an eligible project.

(3) Grant [reimbursement] money shall not be used to reimburse any portion of an in-kind contribution to an eligible project.

(4) Grant money may not be used to pay or reimburse wages or salaries of grant recipient staff.

(5) Grant money may not be used to reimburse any portion of the project costs which are being paid or reimbursed under another Federal or State grant program.

(6) A single applicant may not be awarded more than \$100,000 in grants in any five-year period, calculated from the date the department awards the grant.

* * *

(e) Application procedure.--An applicant who desires to receive a program reimbursement grant shall submit a grant application on a form provided by the department and in accordance with program standards and requirements. The application shall contain the following information and other information as required by the department:

* * *

(2) The details of the project for which reimbursement grant money is sought, including the following:

* * *

(ii) A statement of the maximum amount of grant money sought for the project[, not to exceed 50% of project costs].

* * *

(viii) A description of how the project supports community or economic development in the project area.

* * *

§ 10704. Distribution of grant money.

The department shall issue program reimbursement grant money to pay [some] any portion of the costs of an eligible project based upon the applicant's submission of a verified statement that the eligible project has been completed or implemented, including a statement of the project completion date, photos of

1 the completed or implemented project with a narrative
2 explanation of each photo, bills and invoices for which
3 reimbursement grant money is sought and other information as the
4 department may reasonably require.

5 § 10902. [Findings and declarations.

6 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

7 (1) Agriculture is this Commonwealth's leading economic
8 enterprise. Unfortunately, the percentage of our population
9 directly involved in agriculture has decreased dramatically
10 over the last several decades. Knowledge about the sources of
11 our food and agriculture in Pennsylvania is not widespread in
12 our communities, particularly in less affluent areas.
13 Educational programs for young children providing hands-on
14 experience with agriculture increases an awareness of what
15 constitutes a healthy diet. Thus, it is vital to inform the
16 future citizens of this Commonwealth about good eating
17 habits, while demonstrating the importance of the role of
18 local farms in achieving this crucial goal.

19 (2) The purposes of this program are to educate
20 prekindergartners through fifth graders and their families
21 about the importance of choosing healthy, locally produced
22 foods and increase awareness of Pennsylvania agriculture.
23 Furthermore, the initiative should aid Pennsylvania farmers
24 in gaining access to new markets within this Commonwealth.
25 Consequently, the Commonwealth should institute a program
26 including:

27 (i) Nutrition education involving student
28 participation which is integrated into regular subjects
29 in the curriculum of primary and secondary education
30 institutions.

31 (ii) Focusing on locally grown foods provided from
32 Pennsylvania farms.

33 (iii) Equipping teachers and other educators to
34 incorporate nutrition and agriculture education into
35 their instruction.

36 (iv) Providing for new direct marketing
37 opportunities for Pennsylvania farmers.

38 (v) Providing for family and community involvement,
39 including parent, caregiver and community group
40 participation in education activities.

41 (vi) Visits to nearby farms for school children so
42 they may understand and learn more about the sources of
43 their food.] (Reserved).

44 § 10904. Grant program.

45 (a) Authorization.--The department, in consultation with the
46 commission and the Department of Health, is authorized to
47 establish a program to award grants for the purpose of
48 developing the Farm-to-School Program [in prekindergarten
49 classes, kindergarten classes or elementary school classes
50 through the fifth grade] in this Commonwealth.

51 (b) Eligibility.--Any school district, school, charter

1 school [or], private school or center with prekindergarten
2 classes[, a kindergarten program or elementary school classes
3 through the fifth grade], kindergarten classes, elementary
4 classes or middle school classes through the eighth grade that
5 participates in a Federal child nutrition program may submit an
6 application to the department for funding a program.

7 (c) Program requirements.--The program shall contain the
8 following elements:

9 (1) [A list of Pennsylvania farmers who have agreed to
10 supply food products from Pennsylvania farms, verifiable by
11 the department.] The procurement of food and food products or
12 food-producing plants from a Pennsylvania farm.

13 (2) Nutrition and agriculture education, including
14 integration into regular classroom subjects.

15 (3) Training of teachers, cafeteria staff and other
16 educational staff on nutrition and agriculture education.

17 (4) The inclusion of parents, caregivers and community
18 groups in educational activities.

19 (5) Field trips to Pennsylvania farms or other direct
20 agricultural educational experiences which teach children
21 about sources of food and Pennsylvania agriculture.

22 (d) Program options.--An eligible applicant may use a grant
23 awarded under this chapter to establish a school garden or
24 pollinator habitat and may use the school garden or pollinator
25 habitat to meet the requirements under subsection (c).

26 § 10906. Applications and review of applications.

27 * * *

28 (b) Evaluation.--When reviewing applications, the secretary
29 shall evaluate applications annually on the basis of all of the
30 following:

31 (1) The ability of the applicant to complete the
32 program.

33 (2) The ability of the applicant to incorporate all of
34 the program requirements under section 10904(c) (relating to
35 grant program).

36 (3) The location of the school in an area where a high
37 percentage of the children are eligible to receive free or
38 reduced-price school meals.

39 (4) The potential of the program to increase knowledge
40 about nutrition and healthy eating habits for the children,
41 their caregivers and the community.

42 (5) The potential of the program to increase knowledge
43 about Pennsylvania agriculture for the children, their
44 caregivers and the community.

45 (6) The ability of the applicant to procure [locally
46 grown foods] Pennsylvania foods and products or plants for
47 the applicant's program.

48 (7) The potential of the program to increase markets for
49 [local] Pennsylvania agricultural producers.

50 (8) The number of people who will be served by the
51 program.

1 (9) The ability of the applicant to sustain the program.
2 (10) The overall performance of the applicant if a grant
3 was received in a previous year.
4 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.