
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 899 Session of
1989

INTRODUCED BY TRICH, MORRIS, COLAIZZO, SCRIMENTI, MAINE,
LAUGHLIN, FOX, VEON, ROBINSON, LETTERMAN, KOSINSKI, RITTER,
BURD, STABACK, STUBAN, KUKOVICH, BISHOP, COY, HERMAN, TRELLO,
RYBAK, PETRARCA, JOHNSON, BELFANTI, MELIO, KASUNIC, PETRONE,
WILLIAMS, NOYE AND LLOYD, APRIL 3, 1989

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
APRIL 3, 1989

AN ACT

1 Providing for Commonwealth support for the Agriculture Education
2 Loan Forgiveness Program for Pennsylvania residents who
3 graduate from institutions of higher education and who apply
4 their degrees in agriculture to family farms within this
5 Commonwealth.

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

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Agriculture
10 Education Loan Forgiveness Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

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

15 "Agency." The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance
16 Agency.

17 "Agricultural products." Crops, livestock and livestock

1 products, and commodities, including, but not limited to:

2 (1) Field crops, including corn, wheat, oats, rye,
3 barley, hay, potatoes and dry beans.

4 (2) Fruits, including apples, peaches, grapes, cherries
5 and berries.

6 (3) Vegetables, including tomatoes, snap beans, cabbage,
7 carrots, beets, onions and mushrooms.

8 (4) Horticultural specialties, including nursery stock,
9 ornamental shrubs, ornamental trees and flowers.

10 (5) Cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry,
11 furbearing animals, milk, eggs and furs.

12 (6) Timber, wood and other wood products derived from
13 trees.

14 (7) Aquatic plants and animals and their by-products.

15 (8) Products derived from any of the above and other
16 products derived from the business of farming, including such
17 other products as may be manufactured, derived or prepared
18 from the heretofore mentioned products, raw or processed,
19 which are used as food for man or animals.

20 "Family farm." The real property of a farm owned by members
21 of an immediate family or by a family farm corporation used for
22 the production, for commercial purposes, of agricultural
23 products.

24 "Family farm corporation." A corporation of which at least
25 75% of its assets are devoted to the business of agriculture and
26 at least 75% of each class of stock of the corporation is
27 continuously owned by members of the immediate family.

28 "Immediate family member." A spouse, child, stepchild,
29 parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, stepbrother, sister,
30 stepsister or like relative-in-law of an owner of real property.

1 "Qualified applicant." A person who meets all of the
2 following criteria:

3 (1) Holds a degree in an agriculturally related field
4 from an institution of higher education.

5 (2) Is in the first year of full-time employment or work
6 on a family farm.

7 (3) Has borrowed through the agency-administered
8 Guaranteed Student Loan Programs.

9 "Secretary." The Secretary of Agriculture of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 Section 3. Agriculture Education Loan Forgiveness Program.

12 Qualified applicants who are selected for the Agriculture
13 Education Loan Forgiveness Program, in accordance with this act,
14 shall be eligible for payment by the agency of a portion of the
15 debt incurred by the applicant through the agency-administered
16 Guaranteed Student Loan Programs for the education necessary to
17 receive a degree in an agriculturally related field. For each
18 academic year that the applicant is employed full time on a
19 family farm or works full time on a family farm, the agency may
20 forgive a proportional part of the applicant's loan so that the
21 loan may be entirely forgiven over four years. No more than
22 \$2,500 shall be forgiven in any year, and no more than \$10,000
23 shall be forgiven for any applicant. Payments shall be made in
24 accordance with the procedures established by the agency.

25 Section 4. Loan forgiveness awards.

26 Recipients of the loan forgiveness awards shall be those
27 applicants who are certified by the Department of Agriculture.
28 Each applicant shall be required to submit such documentation of
29 continued eligibility as the agency may require.

30 Section 5. Funding.

1 Loan forgiveness awards may be made to the extent that funds
2 are appropriated by the General Assembly.

3 Section 6. Responsibility of agency.

4 It shall be the responsibility of the agency to administer
5 the Agriculture Education Loan Forgiveness Program established
6 by this act and to adopt such regulations, policies, procedures
7 and forms as are necessary and not inconsistent with the
8 provisions of this act.

9 Section 7. Effective date.

10 This act shall take effect July 1, 1989.