
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1868 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, DeWEESE, CAPPABIANCA, BELARDI,
BELFANTI, BISHOP, BROWNE, M. COHEN, COY, DALEY, DeLUCA,
EVANS, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HORSEY,
LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, LUCYK, MANDERINO, McCALL,
MELIO, OLIVER, PETRARCA, PETRONE, RAMOS, READSHAW, SANTONI,
SCRIMENTI, SERAFINI, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, STEELMAN,
TANGRETTI, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, VAN HORNE, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI,
YOUNGBLOOD, BATTISTO AND HARHAI, SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

AN ACT

1 Authorizing the Department of Agriculture to make loans to
2 farmers for agricultural crops lost due to drought
3 conditions; and making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Drought
8 Relief Loan Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Agricultural crop." Any of the following agricultural
14 products grown in a field:

15 (1) Corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, hay, potatoes and

dry beans.

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

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

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

"Drought disaster county." A county in which the Governor has proclaimed or declared a drought and water shortage emergency pursuant to 35 Pa.C.S. Part V (relating to emergency management services).

"Farmer." A person who is a resident of this Commonwealth, who is engaged in the commercial production of an agricultural crop and who owns and occupies the real property on which the agricultural crop is produced.

Section 3. Loans.

(a) Authorization.--The department may make loans up to \$500,000 each to farmers whose agricultural crops are situated in drought disaster counties and who suffer a loss to their agricultural crops due to drought conditions.

(b) Application.--In order to receive a loan under this act, a farmer must submit an application to the department and such other documentation as is satisfactory to the department to verify the amount of the loss.

(c) Amount of loan.--A loan under this act shall not exceed the amount of the agricultural crop lost due to drought conditions.

Section 4. Regulation.

The department shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this act.

1 Section 5. Appropriation.

2 The sum of \$200,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
3 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of
4 Agriculture for the fiscal year July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000,
5 to provide loans under this act.

6 Section 6. Effective date.

7 This act shall take effect immediately.