

SB2688



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2688

Introduced 10/14/2025, by Sen. Sally J. Turner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 205/205-455 new

Amends the Department of Agriculture Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish an online portal on the Department's website with links to certain federal and State agencies for the purposes of, among other things, providing assistance to users in navigating regulations, avoiding punitive enforcement actions, collaborating with experts, and obtaining information regarding funding opportunities. Requires the Department of Agriculture, in each year in which the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture releases its Census of Agriculture, to issue a report to the General Assembly regarding lost Illinois farmland.

LRB104 14627 BDA 27769 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Agriculture Law of the Civil
5 Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by adding Section
6 205-455 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 205/205-455 new)

8 Sec. 205-455. Online portal.

9 (a) In this Section:

10 "Farmland" has the meaning ascribed to that term in the
11 last Census of Agriculture published by the National
12 Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States
13 Department of Agriculture.

14 "User" means:

15 (1) a rural community;

16 (2) a farmer;

17 (3) an agribusiness; or

18 (4) any other individual or entity using the online
19 portal established under this Section for the purposes
20 described in subsection (d).

21 (b) The Department shall establish an online portal on the
22 Department's website.

23 (c) The Department shall administer the online portal.

1 (d) The purposes of the online portal shall be to:

2 (1) assist users in the successful navigation of
3 agricultural or related topics among various federal and
4 State agencies;

5 (2) provide a single online source for users to access
6 agricultural or related federal and State funding
7 opportunities;

8 (3) provide a searchable database of available federal
9 and State grants with information on deadlines and
10 eligibility criteria; and

11 (4) provide regular updates to reflect changes in
12 federal and State funding opportunities.

13 (e) The online portal shall include links that will
14 facilitate navigating the Department's website and the
15 websites of various other State and federal agencies,
16 including the following:

17 (1) the United States Department of Agriculture;

18 (2) the United States Department of Agriculture's
19 Natural Resources Conservation Service;

20 (3) the United States Environmental Protection Agency;

21 (4) the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; and

22 (5) any other federal or State agency, the interaction
23 with which would be helpful to users, as determined by the
24 Department.

25 (f) To accomplish the purposes described in subsection
26 (d), the online portal shall do all the following:

1 (1) provide a series of regulatory checklists for
2 users that are considering diversifying into new markets
3 to assist users in:

4 (A) navigating agricultural and related
5 regulations; and

6 (B) avoiding punitive enforcement actions before
7 they arise;

8 (2) assist users in collaborating with:

9 (A) the University of Illinois Extension Office;

10 (B) the Prairie Research Institute at the
11 University of Illinois; and

12 (C) the United States Department of Agriculture;

13 (3) create an online portal that will help connect
14 users with responsive data visualization tools and
15 technical assistance programming; and

16 (4) provide an online portal through which users may
17 gather information regarding, and apply for, available
18 federal and State agricultural and related funding
19 opportunities.

20 (h) By November 1 of each year in which the National
21 Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States
22 Department of Agriculture publishes its Census of Agriculture,
23 the Department shall:

24 (1) conduct an inventory of all farmland lost in
25 Illinois during the 5 calendar years preceding publication
26 of the report; and

1 (2) identify the primary cause of the reduction of
2 farmland under paragraph (1).

3 (i) After conducting each inventory under subsection (h),
4 the Department shall report its findings and recommendations,
5 including any recommended legislation, to the General Assembly
6 in accordance with Section 3.1 of the General Assembly
7 Organization Act on or before December 31 of the year in which
8 the inventory is conducted. Within 30 days after filing with
9 the General Assembly the report required under this
10 subsection, the Department shall upload the report to its
11 website.