



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3267

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Sen. Laura Ellman

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

505 ILCS 135/7 new

Amends the Sustainable Agriculture Act. Provides that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a joint study to evaluate the corrective actions that may be adopted within the agricultural sector to mitigate dust storm occurrences and the severity of dust storms. Provides that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources may consult with and seek assistance from similar state agencies in other states and federal agencies, to the extent that such coordination aids in furthering the purposes of this study. Requires the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources to coordinate with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the Office of Homeland Security to evaluate and publish findings on the short-term and long-term threats of dust storms and the protocol that should be developed to protect the public from current and future threats posed by dust storms. Provides that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources shall publish the joint study on an agreed upon publicly available website and shall provide suitable copies to the Governor and the General Assembly by no later than December 1, 2027.

LRB104 19278 TRT 32724 b

1 AN ACT concerning agriculture.

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

4 Section 5. The Sustainable Agriculture Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 7 as follows:

6 (505 ILCS 135/7 new)

7 Sec. 7. Dust Storm Study.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) In May of 2025, northern Illinois and the City of  
10 Chicago were hit with a severe dust storm, the likes of  
11 which had not been seen in the region since the Dust Bowl  
12 of the 1930s.

13 (2) In 2023, a dust storm occurred in the State along  
14 the Sangamon County and Montgomery County line on I-55,  
15 causing over 70 accidents, 37 injuries, and 7 fatalities.

16 (3) Exposed soil and a lack of windbreaks influenced  
17 the formation and severity of these severe dust storms  
18 observed in recent years.

19 (4) The increasingly common phenomenon of dust storms  
20 in Illinois negatively impacts commerce and agriculture  
21 within the State and endangers the public.

22 (5) The Department of Agriculture and the Department  
23 of Natural Resources have the expertise to evaluate and

1 present findings related to the threat of future dust  
2 storms within the State, to assess how climate change and  
3 drought may exacerbate those threats, and to recommend  
4 corrective actions that can be taken to reduce the  
5 likelihood of future dust storms.

6 (b) Therefore, the Department of Agriculture and the  
7 Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a joint study to  
8 evaluate the threat of future dust storms within the State and  
9 the potential solutions to those storms. The Departments shall  
10 consider and shall publish findings on how the risk of dust  
11 storms may vary across the State.

12 (c) The joint study shall evaluate corrective actions that  
13 may be adopted within the agricultural sector to mitigate dust  
14 storm occurrences and severity, including:

15 (1) corrective actions that can be taken to reduce the  
16 likelihood of dust storms occurring;

17 (2) corrective actions that will incentivize  
18 widespread vegetative windbreak adoption;

19 (3) corrective actions that will incentivize cover  
20 crop adoption; and

21 (4) corrective actions that will incentive the  
22 adoption of permaculture practices by farmers.

23 (d) The Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
24 Natural Resources shall coordinate with the Illinois Emergency  
25 Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security to evaluate  
26 and publish findings on:

1           (1) the short-term and long-term threats of dust  
2           storms; and

3           (2) the protocol that should be developed to protect  
4           the public from current and future threats posed by dust  
5           storms.

6           (e) The Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
7           Natural Resources may solicit information from entities that  
8           have been impacted by the 2023 and 2025 dust storms and from  
9           entities the Departments determine are likely to be impacted  
10           by future dust storms. The Department of Agriculture and the  
11           Department of Natural Resources may consult with and seek  
12           assistance from other similar state agencies in other states  
13           and federal agencies to the extent that such coordination aids  
14           in furthering the purposes of the study required under this  
15           Section.

16           (f) The Department of Agriculture and the Department of  
17           Natural Resources shall publish the joint study on an  
18           agreed-upon publicly available website and shall provide  
19           suitable copies to the Governor and the General Assembly by no  
20           later than December 1, 2027.