



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB4234

by Rep. Sonya M. Harper

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Farmer Equity Act. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall ensure the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in urbanized areas, in the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food and agriculture laws, regulations, policies, and programs. Provides that the Department shall: (1) consult with the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of Natural Resources, the Executive Director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the Secretary of Human Services, and other interested parties of the public and private sector of the State on opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers to coordinate State programs; (2) disseminate information regarding opportunities provided by, including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the General Accounting Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other federal agencies that that have programs that may assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and (3) evaluate opportunities for the inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in boards, committees, commissions, and other similar positions created by the Department. Provides that on or before January 1, 2020, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on efforts to serve socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and female farmers and ranchers in this State. Effective immediately.

LRB100 15721 SLF 30827 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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Farmer
5 Equity Act.

6 Section 5. Legislative Findings. This State recognizes the
7 importance of investing in the long-term prosperity of our food
8 and farming system, beginning with farmers. It is the intent of
9 the General Assembly that the Director of Agriculture should
10 support socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and
11 include this support in the Department's vision and its
12 relevant policies.

13 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

14 "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

15 "Director" means the Director of Agriculture.

16 "Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers" means a
17 farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged
18 group.

19 "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members
20 have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice
21 because of their identity as members of a group without regard
22 to that member's personal qualities. "Socially disadvantaged

1 group" includes, but is not limited to, African Americans,
2 Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans,
3 and Pacific Islanders.

4 "Urbanized area" means a geographic location with a
5 population of at least 50,000 people.

6 Section 15. Inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers
7 and ranchers.

8 (a) The Department shall ensure the inclusion of socially
9 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, including socially
10 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in urbanized areas, in the
11 development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of food
12 and agriculture laws, regulations, policies, and programs.

13 (b) The Director shall create a position within the
14 Department's office to support the efforts of this Act. The
15 person appointed to this position shall report to the Director.

16 (c) The Department shall:

17 (1) consult with the Director of the Environmental
18 Protection Agency, the Director of Natural Resources, the
19 Executive Director of the Illinois Housing Development
20 Authority, the Secretary of Human Services, and other
21 interested parties of the public and private sector of the
22 State on opportunities for socially disadvantaged farmers
23 and ranchers to coordinate State programs;

24 (2) disseminate information regarding opportunities
25 provided by, including, but not limited to, the United

1 States Department of Agriculture, the United States
2 Environmental Protection Agency, the General Accounting
3 Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other
4 federal agencies that that have programs that may assist
5 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers; and

6 (3) evaluate opportunities for the inclusion of
7 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in boards,
8 committees, commissions, and other similar positions
9 created by the Department.

10 Section 20. Report. On or before January 1, 2020, the
11 Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the
12 General Assembly on efforts to serve socially disadvantaged
13 farmers and ranchers and female farmers and ranchers in this
14 State. The report shall include recommendations to the Governor
15 and the General Assembly on how to improve processes to include
16 socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
18 becoming law.