



2013 SENATE BILL 437

December 11, 2013 - Introduced by Senators HARS DORF, SHILLING and LEIBHAM, cosponsored by Representatives NERISON, A. OTT, SMITH, LEMAHIEU, STRACHOTA, BALLWEG, MARKLEIN, PETRYK and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Small Business, and Tourism.

- 1 **AN ACT to repeal** 91.84 (1) (c); and **to amend** 91.84 (1) (b) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** designation of agricultural enterprise areas.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) administers the Farmland Preservation Program, which contains some of the requirements that a farmer must meet to qualify for the farmland preservation tax credit. Under current law, one requirement for qualifying for the farmland preservation tax credit is that the farmland must either be in a farmland preservation zoning district under a certified farmland preservation zoning ordinance or be covered by a farmland preservation agreement entered into by DATCP and the farmer.

Current law prohibits DATCP from entering into a farmland preservation agreement with a farmer unless the farmer's land is in an agricultural enterprise area designated by DATCP. DATCP may not designate an area as an agricultural enterprise area unless it receives a petition from local government units and at least five farmers with land in the area. Current law prohibits DATCP from designating agricultural enterprise areas with a combined area of more than 1,000,000 acres.

This bill increases the cap on the combined area of agricultural enterprise areas from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 acres.

