



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4401/1
MCP:amn&ahe

2019 SENATE BILL 453

September 27, 2019 - Introduced by Senators SMITH, CARPENTER, ERPENBACH, LARSON, RINGHAND, SCHACHTNER, SHILLING and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives VRUWINK, TRANEL, ANDERSON, BILLINGS, BOWEN, CONSIDINE, DOYLE, EDMING, EMERSON, FIELDS, HEBL, HINTZ, KOLSTE, KULP, NEUBAUER, OHNSTAD, SARGENT, SHANKLAND, SKOWRONSKI, SPREITZER, STUCK and ZAMARRIPA. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Revenue and Financial Institutions.

1 **AN ACT to create** 20.115 (4) (ap) and 93.485 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating
2 a Small Farm Diversity grant program, providing an exemption from
3 emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making an
4 appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to create a Small Farm Diversity grant program, under which DATCP may award grants of up to \$50,000 to 1) a new agricultural producer to fund start-up costs for a new agricultural operation that will be conducted on 50 acres or less of land; 2) an existing agricultural producer to fund costs for adding a new agricultural product or increasing production of an agricultural product as part of an agricultural operation that is conducted on 50 acres or less of land; or 3) an existing agricultural producer, for the purpose of reducing existing equipment debt, if the producer has added a new agricultural product or increased production of an agricultural product as part of an agricultural operation that is conducted on 50 acres or less of land. The bill appropriates \$500,000 in general purpose revenue biennially for this purpose. The bill also requires a grant recipient to provide equal matching funds for its operations and outlines certain reporting requirements the recipient must follow during the three years after receiving a grant. Under the bill, if a grant recipient does not use the grant funds for the purpose for which the grant is made, fails to submit required information, or falsifies information submitted, the recipient must repay the grant funds to the extent directed by DATCP.

SENATE BILL 453

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
2 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

2019-20 2020-21

3 **20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer**
4 **protection, department of**

5 (4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

6 (ap) Small farm diversity grants GPR B 250,000 250,000

7 **SECTION 2.** 20.115 (4) (ap) of the statutes is created to read:

8 20.115 (4) (ap) *Small farm diversity grants.* Biennially, the amounts in the
9 schedule for small farm diversity grants under s. 93.485.

10 **SECTION 3.** 93.485 of the statutes is created to read:

11 **93.485 Small farm diversity grant program.** (1) For the purposes of
12 supporting new agricultural producers and increasing the diversity of agricultural
13 production in this state, the department may award grants from the appropriation
14 under s. 20.115 (4) (ap) to new agricultural producers to fund start-up costs for new
15 agricultural production operations that will be conducted on 50 acres or less of land;
16 to existing agricultural producers to fund costs for adding a new agricultural
17 product, as defined in s. 348.27 (18) (a), or increasing production of an agricultural
18 product, as part of an agricultural production operation that is conducted on 50 acres
19 or less of land; or to existing agricultural producers that have added a new

SENATE BILL 453

1 agricultural product or increased production of an agricultural product as part of an
2 agricultural production operation that is conducted on 50 acres or less of land, for the
3 purpose of reducing existing equipment debt. The department may not award a
4 grant under this section of more than \$50,000, and may not award a grant under this
5 section unless the applicant contributes matching funds equal to the amount of the
6 proposed grant. The department shall promulgate rules for the program under this
7 section.

8 (2) An individual or organization that receives a grant under this section shall
9 submit all of the following to the department:

10 (a) One year after receiving the grant, a report that includes an itemized list
11 of expenditures for which the grant was used and the amount of each expenditure;
12 the amount of income earned from the agricultural operation; the number of
13 employees of the agricultural operation; and any other information required by the
14 department by rule.

15 (b) Two years and 3 years after receiving the grant, reports that include the
16 amount of income earned from the agricultural operation; the number of employees
17 of the agricultural operation; and any other information required by the department
18 by rule.

19 (3) If the recipient of a grant under this section fails to use the grant funds for
20 the purposes specified in sub. (1), fails to submit the reports under sub. (2), or
21 knowingly provides false information in a report submitted under sub. (2), the grant
22 recipient shall repay the grant funds to the department to the extent and in the
23 manner directed by the department, and the department shall include this
24 requirement in any grant agreement with the grant recipient.

SECTION 4. Nonstatutory provisions.

