

☞ **11hr\_SC-AFHE\_sb0020(Se1)\_pt01**



☞ Details: September 2011 Special Session Senate Bill 20

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

## WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

### 2011-12

(session year)

### Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

### Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Higher Education...

### COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

### INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
  - (**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
  - (**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



October 25, 2011

**EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (7) Senators Schultz, Harsdorf, Kedzie, Moulton,  
Hansen, Shilling and King.

Absent: (0) None.

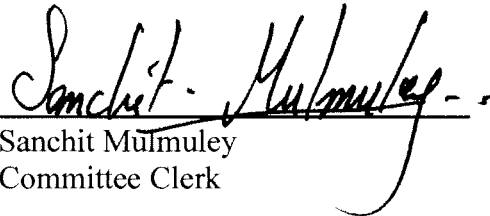
Excused: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Harsdorf, seconded by Senator Moulton that  
**September 2011 Special Session Senate Bill 20** be recommended  
for passage.

Ayes: (7) Senators Schultz, Harsdorf, Kedzie, Moulton,  
Hansen, Shilling and King.

Noes: (0) None.

PASSAGE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

  
Sanchit Mulumley  
Committee Clerk

# Vote Record

## Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Higher Education

Date: 10/25/11

Moved by: Harsdorf

Seconded by: Moulton.

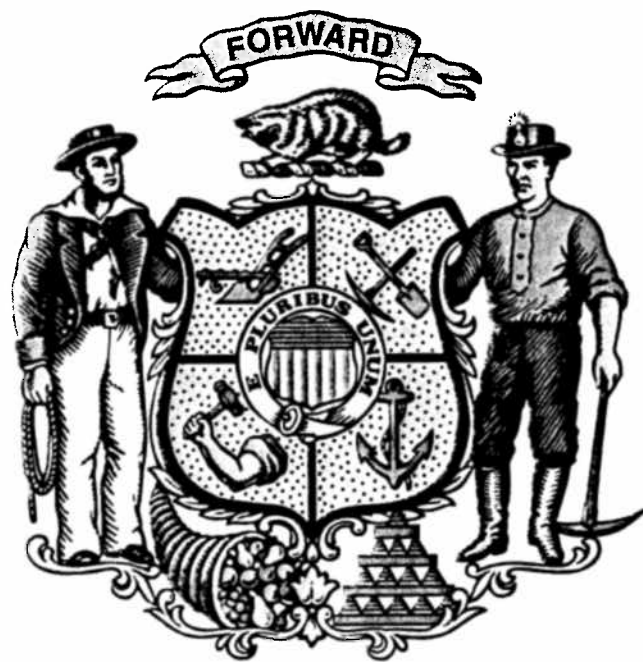
AB \_\_\_\_\_ SB SB 20 Clearinghouse Rule \_\_\_\_\_  
 AJR \_\_\_\_\_ SJR \_\_\_\_\_ Appointment \_\_\_\_\_  
 AR \_\_\_\_\_ SR \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_  
 A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Amdt \_\_\_\_\_ to A/S Sub Amdt \_\_\_\_\_

- Be recommended for:
- Passage     Adoption     Confirmation     Concurrence     Indefinite Postponement
  - Introduction     Rejection     Tabling     Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
<b>Senator Dale Schultz, Chair</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Sheila Harsdorf</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Neal Kedzie</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Terry Moulton</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Dave Hansen</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Jennifer Shilling</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Senator Jessica King</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Motion Carried                       Motion Failed





**LEE NERISON**

**96<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Remarks of Representative Lee Nerison  
on September 2011 Special Session AB 20/SB 20  
Senate and Assembly Committees on Agriculture  
October 25, 2011

Good morning, fellow committee members. I testify today in support of September 2011 Special Session Assembly Bill 20, which I have authored, and its companion bill, September 2011 Special Session Senate Bill 20, which is authored by Senator Dale Schultz.

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These bills make changes to agricultural production loan guarantees administered by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), specifically the Credit Relief Outreach Program (CROP). The purpose of CROP is to provide farmers with working capital through a lower interest rate loan while reducing risk to the lender because the loan is guaranteed through WHEDA.

CROP loan proceeds may be used to pay for a wide range of input costs – things like fertilizer, seed, fuel, land rent, animal feed, equipment rental and repair, crop insurance, feeder animals, and labor and utility costs directly related to planting and harvesting agricultural commodities.

These bills make three key changes to the CROP program. First, they lower the minimum loan amount from the current \$30,000 to \$2,000 and raise the maximum loan amount from the current \$100,000 to \$150,000. Second, they change the loan guarantee term from the current expiration of March 31 of the calendar year following the year in which the loan was made to a 12-month term. Third, they delete the provision in current law that allows a lender to extend the guarantee term to June 30 of the calendar year following the year in which the loan was made.

Lowering the minimum and raising the maximum loan amounts is intended to make it easier for farmers who don't need a larger loan amount to have access to low interest loans with a guaranteed approval. We know that beginning farmers in particular face challenges in accessing working capital because they don't have a lot of equity. At the other end of the spectrum, raising the maximum loan amount recognizes higher input costs.

The last two changes in these bills are proposed to make the CROP loan program more user-friendly for farmers by making a repayment term more consistent. It didn't make a lot of sense to have the same deadline for repayment regardless of when a farmer took out a loan.

Let's not forget that Wisconsin agriculture is a \$59 billion industry that accounts for nearly 354,000 jobs or 10 percent of total employment in our state. This bill will help more farmers to access working capital and that will keep our agricultural economy moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.