



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 112, *approved September 22, 2022*  
Senate, No. 772 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of a New Jersey Minority,  
2 Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry and supplementing  
3 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall establish a New Jersey  
9 Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry. Through the  
10 Farm Liaison<sup>1,1</sup> designated pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2019, c.94  
11 (C.4:1-48), the department shall:

12 (1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,  
13 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, and other farmers in the State  
14 who have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance  
15 programs, **1[and] including<sup>1</sup>** programs for beginning farmer loans,  
16 emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans,  
17 guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm  
18 ownership down payment loans, microloans, and other business  
19 assistance offered to farmers in the State;

20 (2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially  
21 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive  
22 notification of opportunities to apply for **1[such loans]<sup>1</sup>** and  
23 participate in **1[such] farm loan assistance and business assistance<sup>1</sup>**  
24 programs;

25 (3) assist in the prioritization of **1[registry]<sup>1</sup>** applications **1[for**  
26 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,  
27 and historically underserved farmers] of State registrants, in  
28 accordance with subsection b. of this section<sup>1</sup>;

29 (4) provide each State registrant with information concerning the  
30 federal USDA register; and

31 (5) provide each State registrant the opportunity to register with  
32 the federal USDA register.

33 b. In cooperation with other State agencies, departments,  
34 independent authorities, and lending institutions in the State, the  
35 department shall assist each State registrant to apply for assistance  
36 programs, farm loan programs, beginning farmer loans, emergency  
37 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
38 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted February 10, 2022.

1 Payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available  
2 to farmers in the State.

3 c. To the greatest extent possible, the department shall ensure  
4 <sup>1</sup>that<sup>1</sup> the criteria for inclusion in the New Jersey Minority, Women,  
5 and Underserved Farmer Registry is the same as the criteria for  
6 inclusion in the federal USDA register so that any State registrant  
7 may be included in both registries. Whenever the criteria for  
8 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any  
9 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall  
10 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and  
11 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of  
12 farmers.

13 d. Not more than 180 days after the establishment of the State  
14 registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department shall:

15 (1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers  
16 who have registered on the federal USDA register;

17 (2) notify any State registrant not also registered with the federal  
18 USDA register of the benefits of registering with the federal USDA  
19 register; and

20 (3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal  
21 USDA register.

22 e. The department, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
23 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt rules and  
24 regulations necessary to implement this act.

25 f. As used in this section:

26 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

27 “Federal USDA register” means the United States Department of  
28 Agriculture Minority Farm Register and any other similar register  
29 for minority, women, and socially disadvantaged farmers,  
30 administered by the Farm Service Agency of the United States  
31 Department of Agriculture.

32 “LGBTQIA+” means a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
33 pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersex, agender,  
34 asexual, questioning, and other non-heterosexual-identifying  
35 community.

36 “State registrant” means a minority, woman, disabled,  
37 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, or historically underserved  
38 farmer registered with the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
39 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
40 of <sup>1</sup>this<sup>1</sup> section <sup>1</sup>**1** of this act<sup>1</sup>.

41 “State registry” means the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
42 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
43 of <sup>1</sup>this<sup>1</sup> section <sup>1</sup>**1** of this act<sup>1</sup>.

44

45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

46

47

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**S772 [1R]**

3

- 1 Directs Department of Agriculture to establish New Jersey
- 2 Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.

# SENATE, No. 772

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Department of Agriculture to establish New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of a New Jersey Minority,  
2 Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry and supplementing  
3 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall establish a New  
9 Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.  
10 Through the Farm Liaison designated pursuant to section 1 of  
11 P.L.2019, c.94 (C.4:1-48), the department shall:

12 (1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,  
13 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, and other farmers in the State  
14 who have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance  
15 programs, and programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency  
16 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
17 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down  
18 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance offered to  
19 farmers in the State;

20 (2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially  
21 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive  
22 notification of opportunities to apply for such loans and participate  
23 in such programs;

24 (3) assist in the prioritization of registry applications for  
25 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,  
26 and historically underserved farmers;

27 (4) provide each State registrant with information concerning  
28 the federal USDA register; and

29 (5) provide each State registrant the opportunity to register with  
30 the federal USDA register.

31 b. In cooperation with other State agencies, departments,  
32 independent authorities, and lending institutions in the State, the  
33 department shall assist each State registrant to apply for assistance  
34 programs, farm loan programs, beginning farmer loans, emergency  
35 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
36 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down  
37 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available  
38 to farmers in the State.

39 c. To the greatest extent possible, the department shall ensure  
40 the criteria for inclusion in the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
41 Underserved Farmer Registry is the same as the criteria for  
42 inclusion in the federal USDA register so that any State registrant  
43 may be included in both registries. Whenever the criteria for  
44 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any  
45 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall  
46 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and  
47 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of  
48 farmers.

- 1 d. Not more than 180 days after the establishment of the State  
2 registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department shall:
- 3 (1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers  
4 who have registered on the federal USDA register;
- 5 (2) notify any State registrant not also registered with the  
6 federal USDA register of the benefits of registering with the federal  
7 USDA register; and
- 8 (3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal  
9 USDA register.
- 10 e. The department, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
11 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt rules and  
12 regulations necessary to implement this act.
- 13 f. As used in this section:
- 14 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.
- 15 “Federal USDA register” means the United States Department of  
16 Agriculture Minority Farm Register and any other similar register  
17 for minority, women, and socially disadvantaged farmers,  
18 administered by the Farm Service Agency of the United States  
19 Department of Agriculture.
- 20 “LGBTQIA+” means a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
21 pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersex, agender,  
22 asexual, questioning, and other non-heterosexual-identifying  
23 community.
- 24 “State registrant” means a minority, woman, disabled,  
25 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, or historically underserved  
26 farmer registered with the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
27 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
28 of section 1 of this act.
- 29 “State registry” means the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
30 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
31 of section 1 of this act.

32  
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
34  
35

36 STATEMENT  
37

38 This bill directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a  
39 New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.  
40 Through the Farm Liaison designated by the Secretary of  
41 Agriculture, the bill directs the department to:

42 1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,  
43 LGBTQIA+, and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State who  
44 have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance  
45 programs, and programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency  
46 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
47 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down



- 1 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available  
2 to farmers in the State;
- 3 2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially  
4 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive  
5 notification of opportunities to apply for such loans and participate  
6 in such programs;
- 7 3) assist in the prioritization of registry applications of  
8 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,  
9 and historically underserved farmers;
- 10 4) provide each registrant with information concerning the  
11 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) minority farm  
12 register; and
- 13 (5) provide each registrant the opportunity to register with the  
14 USDA minority farm register.

15 The bill also provides that, 180 days after the establishment of  
16 the State registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department  
17 would be required to:

- 18 1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers  
19 who have registered with the USDA federal register;
- 20 2) notify any State registrant that is not registered with the  
21 federal USDA register of the benefits of being registered with both  
22 registers; and
- 23 3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal  
24 USDA register.

25 Furthermore, the bill provides that, to the greatest extent  
26 possible, the department would ensure that the criteria for inclusion  
27 in the New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer  
28 Registry is the same as the criteria for inclusion in the federal  
29 USDA register so that any State registrant may be included in both  
30 registries. The bill also provides that, whenever the criteria for  
31 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any  
32 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall  
33 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and  
34 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of  
35 farmers.

36 The United States Department of Agriculture Minority Farm  
37 Register was established to promote inclusion and diversity in the  
38 agricultural and horticultural sectors of the nation's economy.  
39 Establishing a parallel registry in the State would include and  
40 bolster the participation of New Jersey minority, women, disabled,  
41 LGBTQIA+, and historically underserved farmers in the available  
42 State and federal loan and assistance programs for farmers. The  
43 diversification of the types of people involved in farming in the  
44 State would strengthen the agricultural and horticultural sectors of  
45 the New Jersey economy and would support the goals and efforts of  
46 the Vision 2025 plan prepared by the New Jersey Agricultural  
47 Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University.

1       The Vision 2025 plan prepared by the New Jersey Agricultural  
2 Experiment Station (Rutgers Vision 2025) is a system of  
3 responsive, innovative, and inclusive programs, farms, stations, and  
4 centers that is prioritizing investments in infrastructure, information  
5 technology, and equipment designed to enable the expansion and  
6 development of cutting-edge programs. The New Jersey  
7 Agricultural Experiment Station's programs, farms, stations, and  
8 centers are designed to be national models of responsive,  
9 innovative, and inclusive research, education, and outreach that can  
10 address grand challenges of the State and broader society, as well as  
11 being known for the sustainable management of the land and natural  
12 resources these efforts encompass.

13       A primary focus of the Rutgers Vision 2025 is to evaluate as  
14 assets the inclusion of qualified people with the needed skills to  
15 deliver new and expanded programs and foster diversity in  
16 developing and strengthening the agricultural and horticultural  
17 sectors in the State.

# SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 772**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 772.

As amended and reported, this bill directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry (State registry). Through the Farm Liaison designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, the bill directs the department to:

1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State who have been historically underserved (historically underserved farmers) by farm loan assistance programs, including programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available to farmers in the State;

2) register historically underserved farmers to receive notification of opportunities to apply for and participate in farm loan assistance and business assistance programs;

3) assist in the prioritization of applications of historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, for farm loan assistance and business assistance programs in accordance with the provisions of the bill;

4) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant with information concerning the United States Department of Agriculture Minority Farm Register (USDA minority farm register); and

5) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant the opportunity to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill also provides that 180 days after the establishment of the State registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department is required to:

1) review and compare the historically underserved farmer, who are State registrants, with the farmers who have registered with the USDA minority farm register;

2) notify any historically underserved farmer, who is a State registrant, and who is not registered with the USDA minority farm register of the benefits of registering with the USDA minority farm register; and

3) encourage historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill provides that, to the greatest extent possible, the department is to ensure that the criteria for inclusion in the State registry is the same as the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register so that any State registrant may be included in both registries. The bill also provides that, whenever the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register is updated to include any additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department is to update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of farmers.

The committee amended the bill to:

- Clarify that programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down payment loans are included with the types of farm loan assistance programs that the department is supposed to coordinate outreach and notify historically underserved farmers of the opportunities for which they may apply;
- Clarify that the department is to assist in the prioritization of applications of State registrants, for farm loan assistance programs and other business assistance programs, in accordance with the provisions of the bill; and
- Make additional grammatical corrections.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 772**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 6, 2022

The Senate and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 772 (1R).

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry (State registry). Through the Farm Liaison designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, the bill directs the department to:

1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State who have been historically underserved (historically underserved farmers) by farm loan assistance programs, including programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available to farmers in the State;

2) register historically underserved farmers to receive notification of opportunities to apply for and participate in farm loan assistance and business assistance programs;

3) assist in the prioritization of applications of historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, for farm loan assistance and business assistance programs in accordance with the provisions of the bill;

4) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant with information concerning the United States Department of Agriculture Minority Farm Register (USDA minority farm register); and

5) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant the opportunity to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill also provides that 180 days after the establishment of the State registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department is required to:

1) review and compare the historically underserved farmer, who are State registrants, with the farmers who have registered with the USDA minority farm register;

2) notify any historically underserved farmer, who is a State registrant, and who is not registered with the USDA minority farm

register of the benefits of registering with the USDA minority farm register; and

3) encourage historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill provides that, to the greatest extent possible, the department is to ensure that the criteria for inclusion in the State registry is the same as the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register so that any State registrant may be included in both registries. The bill also provides that, whenever the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register is updated to include any additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department is to update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of farmers.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1929**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN**

**District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Haider and Sumter**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs Department of Agriculture to establish New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of a New Jersey Minority,  
2 Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry and supplementing  
3 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. a. The Department of Agriculture shall establish a New  
9 Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.  
10 Through the Farm Liaison designated pursuant to section 1 of  
11 P.L.2019, c.94 (C.4:1-48), the department shall:

12 (1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,  
13 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, and other farmers in the State  
14 who have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance  
15 programs, and programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency  
16 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
17 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down  
18 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance offered to  
19 farmers in the State;

20 (2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially  
21 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive  
22 notification of opportunities to apply for such loans and participate  
23 in such programs;

24 (3) assist in the prioritization of registry applications for  
25 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,  
26 and historically underserved farmers;

27 (4) provide each State registrant with information concerning  
28 the federal USDA register; and

29 (5) provide each State registrant the opportunity to register with  
30 the federal USDA register.

31 b. In cooperation with other State agencies, departments,  
32 independent authorities, and lending institutions in the State, the  
33 department shall assist each State registrant to apply for assistance  
34 programs, farm loan programs, beginning farmer loans, emergency  
35 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
36 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down  
37 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available  
38 to farmers in the State.

39 c. To the greatest extent possible, the department shall ensure  
40 the criteria for inclusion in the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
41 Underserved Farmer Registry is the same as the criteria for  
42 inclusion in the federal USDA register so that any State registrant  
43 may be included in both registries. Whenever the criteria for  
44 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any  
45 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall  
46 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and  
47 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of  
48 farmers.



1 d. Not more than 180 days after the establishment of the State  
2 registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department shall:

3 (1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers  
4 who have registered on the federal USDA register;

5 (2) notify any State registrant not also registered with the federal  
6 USDA register of the benefits of registering with the federal USDA  
7 register; and

8 (3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal  
9 USDA register.

10 e. The department, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure  
11 Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt rules and  
12 regulations necessary to implement this act.

13 f. As used in this section:

14 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

15 “Federal USDA register” means the United States Department of  
16 Agriculture Minority Farm Register and any other similar register  
17 for minority, women, and socially disadvantaged farmers,  
18 administered by the Farm Service Agency of the United States  
19 Department of Agriculture.

20 “LGBTQIA+” means a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
21 pansexual, transgender, genderqueer, queer, intersex, agender,  
22 asexual, questioning, and other non-heterosexual-identifying  
23 community.

24 “State registrant” means a minority, woman, disabled,  
25 LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged, or historically underserved  
26 farmer registered with the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
27 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
28 of section 1 of this act.

29 “State registry” means the New Jersey Minority, Women, and  
30 Underserved Farmer Registry established pursuant to subsection a.  
31 of section 1 of this act.

32

33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

34

35

36

## STATEMENT

37

38 This bill directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a  
39 New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry.  
40 Through the Farm Liaison designated by the Secretary of  
41 Agriculture, the bill directs the department to:

42 1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled,  
43 LGBTQIA+, and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State who  
44 have been historically underserved by farm loan assistance  
45 programs, and programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency  
46 farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed  
47 farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down

- 1 payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available  
2 to farmers in the State;
- 3 2) register minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially  
4 disadvantaged, and historically underserved farmers to receive  
5 notification of opportunities to apply for such loans and participate  
6 in such programs;
- 7 3) assist in the prioritization of registry applications of  
8 minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, socially disadvantaged,  
9 and historically underserved farmers;
- 10 4) provide each registrant with information concerning the  
11 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) minority farm  
12 register; and
- 13 (5) provide each registrant the opportunity to register with the  
14 USDA minority farm register.

15 The bill also provides that, 180 days after the establishment of  
16 the State registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department  
17 would be required to:

- 18 1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers  
19 who have registered with the USDA federal register;
- 20 2) notify any State registrant that is not registered with the  
21 federal USDA register of the benefits of being registered with both  
22 registers; and
- 23 3) encourage the State registrant to register with the federal  
24 USDA register.

25 Furthermore, the bill provides that, to the greatest extent  
26 possible, the department would ensure that the criteria for inclusion  
27 in the New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer  
28 Registry is the same as the criteria for inclusion in the federal  
29 USDA register so that any State registrant may be included in both  
30 registries. The bill also provides that, whenever the criteria for  
31 inclusion in the federal USDA register is updated to include any  
32 additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department shall  
33 update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and  
34 coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of  
35 farmers.

36 The United States Department of Agriculture Minority Farm  
37 Register was established to promote inclusion and diversity in the  
38 agricultural and horticultural sectors of the nation's economy.  
39 Establishing a parallel registry in the State would include and  
40 bolster the participation of New Jersey minority, women, disabled,  
41 LGBTQIA+, and historically underserved farmers in the available  
42 State and federal loan and assistance programs for farmers. The  
43 diversification of the types of people involved in farming in the  
44 State would strengthen the agricultural and horticultural sectors of  
45 the New Jersey economy and would support the goals and efforts of  
46 the Vision 2025 plan prepared by the New Jersey Agricultural  
47 Experiment Station at Rutgers, the State University.

1 The Vision 2025 plan prepared by the New Jersey Agricultural  
2 Experiment Station (Rutgers Vision 2025) is a system of  
3 responsive, innovative, and inclusive programs, farms, stations, and  
4 centers that is prioritizing investments in infrastructure, information  
5 technology, and equipment designed to enable the expansion and  
6 development of cutting-edge programs. The New Jersey  
7 Agricultural Experiment Station's programs, farms, stations, and  
8 centers are designed to be national models of responsive,  
9 innovative, and inclusive research, education, and outreach that can  
10 address grand challenges of the State and broader society, as well as  
11 being known for the sustainable management of the land and natural  
12 resources these efforts encompass.

13 A primary focus of the Rutgers Vision 2025 is to evaluate as  
14 assets the inclusion of qualified people with the needed skills to  
15 deliver new and expanded programs and foster diversity in  
16 developing and strengthening the agricultural and horticultural  
17 sectors in the State.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1929**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 13, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1929.

This bill, as amended, directs the Department of Agriculture to establish a New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry. Through the Farm Liaison designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, the bill directs the department to:

1) coordinate outreach to minority, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and socially disadvantaged farmers in the State who have been historically underserved (historically underserved farmers) by farm loan assistance programs, including programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, direct farm ownership down payment loans, microloans, and other business assistance available to farmers in the State;

2) register historically underserved farmers to receive notification of opportunities to apply for and participate in farm loan assistance and business assistance programs;

3) assist in the prioritization of applications of historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, for farm loan assistance and business assistance programs in accordance with the provisions of the bill;

4) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant with information concerning the United States Department of Agriculture Minority Farm Register (USDA minority farm register); and

5) provide each historically underserved farmer who is a State registrant the opportunity to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill also provides that 180 days after the establishment of the State registry, and every 180 days thereafter, the department is required to:

1) review and compare the State registrants with the farmers who have registered with the USDA minority farm register;

2) notify any historically underserved farmer, who is a State registrant, and who is not registered with the USDA minority farm register of the benefits of registering with the USDA minority farm register; and

3) encourage historically underserved farmers, who are State registrants, to register with the USDA minority farm register.

The bill provides that, to the greatest extent possible, the department is to ensure that the criteria for inclusion in the State registry is the same as the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register so that any State registrant may be included in both registries. The bill also provides that, whenever the criteria for inclusion in the USDA minority farm register is updated to include any additional individuals or groups of farmers, the department is to update accordingly the criteria for inclusion in the State registry and coordinate outreach to the additional individuals or groups of farmers.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

1) clarify that programs for beginning farmer loans, emergency farm loans, farm loan servicing, farm operating loans, guaranteed farm loans, direct operating loans, and direct farm ownership down payment loans would be included in the programs for which the department provides outreach and notification under the bill;

2) clarify language in the bill regarding the assistance by the department of State registrants for farm loan assistance programs and other business assistance programs; and

3) make technical corrections.

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

09/22/2022

**TRENTON** – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills into law:

**S-772/A-1929 (Pou, Pennacchio/Swain, Dancer, McKnight)** - Directs Department of Agriculture to establish New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry

**S-1027/A-2208 (Singleton, Cruz-Perez/Greenwald, Verrelli, Sampson)** - Includes duct cleaning as public work subject to the prevailing wage law

**S-2253/A-3656 (Scutari, Pou/Stanley, McKnight, Benson)** - Limits fees charged for copies of medical and billing records

The Governor vetoed the following bills:

**S-757/S-2772 (Sarlo, Oroho/Freiman, Mukherji, Dancer) - CONDITIONAL** - Authorizes special occasion events at certain commercial farms on preserved farmland, under certain conditions

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**SCS for S-2357/ACS for A-3830 (Madden, Lagana/Moriarty, Haider, Danielsen) - CONDITIONAL** - Concerns timely payment of UI benefits

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**A-1474/S-511 (Lopez, Danielsen, Carter/Cryan) - CONDITIONAL** - Provides certain protections and rights for temporary laborers.

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