

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 include this  
11 support in the Department's vision and its relevant policies.

12 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

13 "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

14 "Director" means the Director of Agriculture.

15 "Socially disadvantaged farmers" means a farmer who is a  
16 member of a socially disadvantaged group.

17 "Socially disadvantaged group" means a group whose members  
18 have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice  
19 because of their identity as members of a group without regard  
20 to that member's personal qualities. "Socially disadvantaged  
21 group" includes, but is not limited to, African Americans,  
22 Native Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans,

1 and Pacific Islanders.

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

4 Section 15. Inclusion of socially disadvantaged farmers.

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

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

13 (c) The Department shall:

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

21 (2) disseminate information regarding opportunities  
22 provided by, including, but not limited to, the United  
23 States Department of Agriculture, the United States  
24 Environmental Protection Agency, the General Accounting  
25 Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other

1 federal agencies that that have programs that may assist  
2 socially disadvantaged farmers; and

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

7 Section 20. Report. On or before January 1, 2020, the  
8 Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the  
9 General Assembly on efforts to serve socially disadvantaged  
10 farmers and female farmers in this State. The report shall  
11 include recommendations to the Governor and the General  
12 Assembly on how to improve processes to include socially  
13 disadvantaged farmers. The report to the General Assembly shall  
14 be filed electronically with the General Assembly as provided  
15 under Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization Act and  
16 shall be provided electronically to any member of the General  
17 Assembly upon request.

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