



Rep. Sonya M. Harper

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10300HB2557ham001

LRB103 25608 RLC 58310 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2557

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2557 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Farmer Equity and Innovation Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Limited resource farmer" means a farmer who has a total
8 household income at or below the national poverty level for a
9 family of 4, or less than 50% of the county median household
10 income in each of the previous 2 years.

11 "Socially disadvantaged farmer" means a farmer who has
12 been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their
13 identity as a member of a group without regard to their
14 individual qualities.

15 Section 10. Farmer Equity and Innovation Center.

1 (a) Subject to appropriation by the General Assembly and
2 approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, the
3 Farmer Equity and Innovation Center is created at the
4 University of Illinois Extension.

5 (b) The Farmer Equity and Innovation Center shall:

6 (1) ensure the continued economic viability of
7 small-scale and moderate-scale diversified farms by
8 creating a coordinated, statewide program to support the
9 operators of those farms, prioritizing limited resource
10 farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers;

11 (2) establish a Farmer Equity and Innovation Program
12 administered by the Center;

13 (3) utilize the University of Illinois Small Farm
14 Advisors, and require the University to increase its Small
15 Farm Advisor positions to 6 in number;

16 (4) include applied research on specified subjects
17 concerning farming in Illinois, outreach regarding those
18 subjects, and informational services on assistance
19 provided by or through the Center or nonprofit
20 organizations designated by the Center;

21 (5) authorize the Program to include special training
22 for new and beginning farmers, with priority given to
23 socially disadvantaged farmers; and

24 (6) conduct a study to determine and issue an annual
25 report to the Governor and General Assembly containing a
26 demographic breakdown of farmers who participate in the

1 Program."