

# SB1054



## 94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

SB1054

Introduced 2/18/2005, by Sen. John M. Sullivan - Emil Jones, Jr.

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

505 ILCS 82/5

Amends the Food and Agriculture Research Act. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the legislative purposes of the Act.

LRB094 04734 JAM 34763 b

A BILL FOR

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 5. The Food and Agriculture Research Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 5 as follows:

6 (505 ILCS 82/5)

7 Sec. 5. Findings. It is the ~~the~~ intent of this Act to  
8 provide a solid base of State funding for public food and  
9 agricultural research programs in Illinois while fostering  
10 public confidence in this research through public  
11 participation. Blessed with rich agricultural soils and a  
12 favorable agricultural climate, Illinois traditionally ranks  
13 fourth or fifth among the States in the nation's gross  
14 agricultural production. The food and agricultural sector,  
15 employing nearly 20% of the State's workers, is committed to  
16 providing safe, nutritious, high-quality, affordable, and  
17 convenient agricultural products and services to Illinois  
18 citizens. Compared with all other states, however, Illinois  
19 faces a tremendous challenge to meet its needs for ongoing  
20 adequate research investments that improve human health while  
21 protecting and enhancing its natural resources and  
22 environment. Without adequate State funding, the food and  
23 agricultural sector faces the consequences of falling behind in  
24 information, projects, and programs affecting human lives and  
25 the demand for improved nutrition, food quality, human health,  
26 and environment.

27 Currently, the State's agricultural universities conduct  
28 research that provides basic information about the structure  
29 and function of food and agricultural systems. Although these  
30 agricultural institutions have a remarkable record of  
31 contributions to an improved food and agricultural sector,  
32 their research is significantly underfunded. The State's

1 Agricultural Experiment Station, maintained as the food and  
2 agricultural research facilities and program of the University  
3 of Illinois, ranks only 29th in state funding among the state  
4 agricultural experiment stations. Southern Illinois University  
5 at Carbondale, Illinois State University, and Western Illinois  
6 University also conduct food and agricultural research but  
7 receive no State appropriated fund allocations. This  
8 underfunding represents a missed opportunity for Illinois and  
9 places it in poor competitive position with other important  
10 agricultural states. The State's consumers and producers reap  
11 high returns from existing public investment in food and  
12 agricultural research, with a pretax return of 40%, the highest  
13 among publicly supported research activities.

14 Illinois needs mechanisms that allow publicly supported  
15 researchers to work closely with farmers, agribusiness,  
16 consumers, conservationists, environmentalists, and other key  
17 decision-makers. Together, these groups can identify  
18 challenges and opportunities for researchers before they  
19 conduct research and transfer the information and technology.  
20 This will allow Illinois to retain its prominence as a leading  
21 agricultural state.

22 The Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research  
23 (C-FAR) is a statewide coalition committed to funding relevant  
24 and high-quality research and related outreach programs  
25 leading to profitable, consumer-sensitive, and environmentally  
26 sound food and agricultural systems. The intent of this Act is  
27 to secure funds to support targeted research initiatives so  
28 that Illinois will continue to meet tomorrow's food and  
29 agricultural needs while using our natural resources  
30 responsibly.

31 The General Assembly of Illinois hereby:

32 (1) Identifies food and agricultural research as a  
33 critically important activity with great public benefits.

34 (2) Identifies the State's agricultural universities  
35 responsible for basic, developmental, and adaptive  
36 research related to the food and agricultural sector; and

1           (3) Authorizes the expenditure of State funds to  
2           enlarge, improve, and sustain the publicly supported  
3           programs of food and agricultural research in Illinois.

4           (Source: P.A. 89-182, eff. 7-19-95.)