

MAR 8 1999

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE FILE
BY FORD

563

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a minority persons in agriculture fund and making
2 appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 563

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 15.221 MINORITY PERSONS IN
2 AGRICULTURE FUND.

3 1. A minority persons in agriculture fund is created in
4 the office of the treasurer of state to be administered by the
5 department. The fund shall include moneys appropriated under
6 this section, appropriated by the general assembly, and any
7 other moneys otherwise available for deposit in the fund.
8 Moneys in the fund shall be used to provide grants designed to
9 promote and encourage ownership and operation of farms and
10 agriculture-related businesses in this state by minority
11 persons.

12 2. The department shall accept applications for grants
13 from the minority persons in agriculture fund from persons who
14 meet the following criteria:

15 a. The applicant is a minority person as defined in
16 section 15.102.

17 b. The applicant either has never owned and operated a
18 farm or has never owned and operated an agriculture-related
19 business.

20 c. The applicant intends to own and operate a farm or
21 agriculture-related business.

22 3. The department shall approve, deny, or defer each
23 application submitted pursuant to this section. An
24 application submitted to the department shall include all of
25 the following:

26 a. Information regarding the criteria in subsection 2.

27 b. Information regarding the farm or agriculture-related
28 business the applicant intends to own and operate.

29 c. Information regarding additional funding sources which
30 are available to the applicant.

31 d. A business plan, a budget, and any other similarly
32 related material.

33 e. Any additional information requested by the department.

34 4. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
35 the state to the minority persons in agriculture fund two

1 hundred fifty thousand dollars for distribution as provided in
2 this section.

3 5. The department shall adopt administrative rules
4 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section.

5 EXPLANATION

6 This bill creates a minority persons in agriculture fund
7 under the control of the department of economic development.
8 The bill provides that moneys in the fund shall be used to
9 provide grants designed to promote and encourage ownership and
10 operation of farms and agriculture-related business in this
11 state by minority persons.

12 The bill provides that an eligible applicant must be a
13 minority person, must have not previously owned and operated a
14 farm or agriculture-related business, and must intend to own
15 and operate a farm or agriculture-related business. The bill
16 provides that an applicant must submit information relating to
17 eligibility criteria, the prospective farm or agricultur-
18 related business, additional funding sources, a business plan,
19 a budget, and any other information requested by the
20 department.

21 The bill provides that there shall be appropriated annually
22 from the general fund of the state to the minority persons in
23 agriculture fund \$250,000.

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