

ASSEMBLY, No. 4708

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 29, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DeAngelo

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Farm Liaison in Department of Agriculture.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/4/2018)

1 AN ACT establishing a Farm Liaison in the Department of
2 Agriculture and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. The Secretary of Agriculture, with the approval of the State
8 Board of Agriculture, shall designate a current employee of the
9 department as “Farm Liaison” who shall have the function, power,
10 and duty to coordinate with individual farmers to encourage
11 participation in department and State agricultural programs. The
12 liaison shall encourage farmers to participate in State agriculture
13 programs that may benefit that farmer, including informing the
14 farmer about potential taxation benefits, and shall also disseminate
15 information about pilot programs, food donation, anti-hunger
16 initiatives, and any other department programs that the liaison may
17 deem relevant to an individual farmer. The liaison shall, as
18 appropriate, also coordinate with the State Agricultural
19 Development Committee and the county agriculture development
20 boards. The liaison shall also serve as a coordinator between
21 farmers and organizations engaging in gleaning activities. The
22 liaison shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary and board.

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24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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29 This bill would require the Secretary of Agriculture, with the
30 approval of the State Board of Agriculture, to designate a current
31 employee of the department as “Farm Liaison.” The liaison would
32 encourage farmer participation in State agriculture programs,
33 including taxation programs, food donations, anti-hunger initiatives,
34 and any other program that the liaison deems relevant to an
35 individual farmer. The liaison would also serve as a coordinator
36 between farmers and organizations engaged in gleaning activities,
37 i.e., the harvesting of crops that would otherwise go unharvested.

38 Farmers frequently do not have the time or resources necessary
39 to learn about every program offered by the department. The
40 designation of a liaison is intended to provide outreach to farmers
41 directly to increase participation in State programs that may aid
42 farmers. The designation of a liaison would also build relationships
43 between the agricultural community and organizations engaged in
44 gleaning activities and anti-hunger initiatives. The participation of
45 the agricultural community is essential to the success of anti-hunger
46 initiatives, and a liaison would be beneficial for promoting
47 awareness, and increasing participation in State programs.