



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 833

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6273

House of Representatives, May 6, 2025

The Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding reported through REP. HORN of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING FUNDING FOR FARMERS WHO HAVE CROP LOSS DUE TO SIGNIFICANT ACUTE WEATHER EVENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) There is established the
2 Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program within the
3 Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the program shall be to
4 reimburse farmers in the state who incur crop loss attributable to
5 significant acute weather events. The department shall establish the
6 parameters of the grant program, including, but not limited to, (1)
7 eligibility criteria for such farmers, (2) prioritization rules for the use of
8 funds available to said department for such program, (3) maximum
9 reimbursement amounts under such program, (4) designation of
10 significant acute weather events that trigger eligibility for such
11 reimbursement under the program, and (5) the application process for
12 any such reimbursement request. Any application received by the
13 department pursuant to the program shall be acted upon by the
14 department not later than sixty days after receipt.

15 (b) Upon the development of the parameters of the grant program,
16 the department shall post information concerning the program,
17 including all such parameters, on the department's Internet web site.

18 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes described in
19 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have the
20 power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state
21 in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
22 aggregate ten million dollars.

23 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds, to the extent of the amount
24 stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the Department
25 of Agriculture for the purpose of providing reimbursement to farmers
26 in accordance with the Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant
27 Program established in section 1 of this act.

28 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the exercise
29 of any right or power granted thereby, that are not inconsistent with the
30 provisions of this section are hereby adopted and shall apply to all
31 bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission pursuant to this
32 section. Temporary notes in anticipation of the money to be derived
33 from the sale of any such bonds so authorized may be issued in
34 accordance with section 3-20 of the general statutes and from time to
35 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
36 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
37 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
38 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of such bonds shall be
39 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
40 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization that is signed
41 by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
42 and states such terms and conditions as said commission, in its
43 discretion, may require. Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall
44 be general obligations of the state and the full faith and credit of the state
45 of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the principal of and
46 interest on such bonds as the same become due, and accordingly and as
47 part of the contract of the state with the holders of such bonds,

48 appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual payment of such
49 principal and interest is hereby made, and the State Treasurer shall pay
50 such principal and interest as the same become due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(b) "Grant" was inserted for consistency.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO C/R*

FIN

FIN *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - Cost	215,130	205,130
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	83,508	83,508
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Section 1 of the bill establishes the Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). This is anticipated to result in an additional cost as DoAg does not currently have the staff to establish and administer the new grant program and would require two new full-time positions, including: one Grant and Contract Specialist (annual salary of \$103,227) and one Analyst 2 (annual salary of \$101,903). The additional full-time positions would result in a total cost of \$205,130 (corresponding fringe benefits of \$83,508) and approximately \$10,000 in other expenses.

Section 2 of the bill authorizes \$10 million in new General Obligation bonds for the Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant. To the extent bonds are fully allocated when available, total debt repayment is anticipated to be approximately \$14.3 million over the 20-year duration of the bonds.

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 40.71% of payroll in FY 26.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the terms of any bonds issued.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6273*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING FUNDING FOR FARMERS WHO HAVE CROP LOSS DUE TO SIGNIFICANT ACUTE WEATHER EVENTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the Farmers' Crop Loss Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture (DoAg). DoAg must use program funds to reimburse Connecticut farmers who incur crop loss from major weather events. The bill requires DoAg to set the program's parameters and post them on the agency's website. The parameters must include, at a minimum, eligibility criteria, funding prioritization rules, maximum reimbursement amounts, the weather events that trigger reimbursement eligibility, and the reimbursement application process. The bill also requires DoAg to act on an application within 60 days after receipt.

The bill authorizes up to \$10 million in state general obligation bonds for DoAg to provide these reimbursements. The bonds are subject to standard issuance procedures and repayment requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - FIN
Yea 33 Nay 0 (03/14/2025)

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 52 Nay 0 (04/24/2025)