

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4505

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

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District 2 (Atlantic)

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SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$5 million in federal funds to Department of Health for grants and stipends to ensure health and safety of farm workers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee on August 24, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning protective health materials for farm workers,
2 and making an appropriation.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Department of Health the sum of \$5 million from a portion of those
9 federal block grant funds allocated to the State from the federal
10 “Coronavirus Relief Fund,” established pursuant to the federal
11 “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” Pub.L.116-
12 136, for use by the department to provide financial assistance in the
13 form of grants to an owner or operator of a farm for the purchase ¹or
14 reimbursement¹ of personal protection equipment to be provided to
15 farm workers at that farm to protect against the COVID-19 virus. The
16 Commissioner of Health may also, at the commissioner’s discretion,
17 provide grants for the purchase ¹or reimbursement¹ of other items or
18 materials that would improve the health and safety of farm workers
19 during the COVID-19 pandemic ¹, including improvements made, or
20 the planning of improvements, to housing and work stations during the
21 COVID-19 pandemic.

22 The Commissioner of Health may also issue stipends to
23 farmworkers who get tested for the COVID-19 virus, test positive, and
24 are subject to a period of mandatory quarantine, but who do not
25 qualify for paid sick leave or unemployment insurance during a period
26 of mandatory quarantine. The amount of any such stipend should be
27 equal to half of the total pay that a farm worker would ordinarily
28 receive for two weeks of work with their current farm employer. A
29 stipend may not be awarded more than one time per individual¹.

30 b. The Department of Health shall provide notice on its Internet
31 website of the availability of funding for the purchase of personal
32 protection equipment, or other health and safety items or materials, for
33 farm workers pursuant to this section. An owner or operator of a farm
34 may apply for a grant in the form and manner prescribed by the
35 department.

36 c. As used in this section:

37 “Farm worker” means any employee engaged to labor on a farm in
38 the production, harvesting, and processing of agricultural products,
39 and shall include any employee subject to the provisions of subsection
40 d. of section 5 of P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a4).

41 “Personal protection equipment” means equipment, such as gloves
42 and masks, to minimize the spread of disease.

43
44 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted August 24, 2020.