

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2596**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

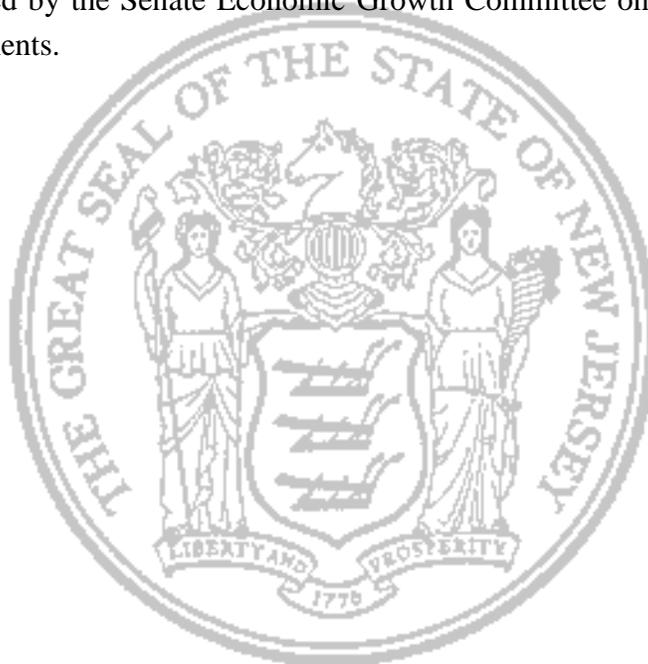
**Senator Pou**

**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 Senate Economic Growth Committee on July 22, 2020, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/28/2020)**

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  
14 <sup>1</sup>or reimbursement<sup>1</sup> of personal protection equipment to be provided  
15 to farm workers at that farm to protect against the COVID-19 virus.  
16 The Commissioner of Health may also, at the commissioner’s  
17 discretion, provide grants for the purchase <sup>1</sup>or reimbursement<sup>1</sup> of  
18 other items or materials that would improve the health and safety of  
19 farm workers during the COVID-19 pandemic <sup>1</sup>, including  
20 improvements made, or the planning of improvements, to housing  
21 and work stations during the 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,  
24 and are subject to a period of mandatory quarantine, but who do not  
25 qualify for paid sick leave or unemployment insurance during a  
26 period of mandatory quarantine. The amount of any such stipend  
27 should be equal to half of the total pay that a farm worker would  
28 ordinarily receive for two weeks of work with their current farm  
29 employer. A stipend may not be awarded more than one time per  
30 individual<sup>1</sup>.

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

37 c. As used in this section:

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

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

44

45 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:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SEG committee amendments adopted July 22, 2020.