

SENATE, No. 3927

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Increases cap on grants for farmland stewardship activities to \$100,000 per application.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S3927 CORRADO

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1 AN ACT concerning farmland stewardship grants and supplementing
2 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

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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. Notwithstanding any other provision of the “Preserve New
8 Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.), any rule or
9 regulation adopted pursuant thereto, the provisions of N.J.A.C.2:76-
10 20.4, any requirements established by the State Agriculture
11 Development Committee concerning grant programs for
12 stewardship activities on land preserved for farmland preservation
13 purposes, or any other rules or regulations concerning grants for
14 stewardship activities on preserved farmland adopted by the
15 committee, to the contrary, grant amounts available to farmers for
16 farmland stewardship activities on preserved farmland may total up
17 to \$100,000 per application. Any monetary limit on the amount per
18 acre with regard to such grants shall be adjusted as necessary to
19 allow for the maximum grant amount of \$100,000 per application.

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21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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26 This bill provides that grant amounts available to farmers for
27 farmland stewardship activities on preserved farmland may total up
28 to \$100,000 per application. Currently, the regulations, established
29 by the State Agriculture Development Committee, implementing
30 the grant program for stewardship activities found at N.J.A.C.2:76-
31 20.4 provide that a grant amount may not exceed \$200 per acre and
32 a total grant amount of \$20,000 per application.

33 This bill seeks to address the increased cost of farmland
34 stewardship activities. Farmland stewardship activities, activities
35 beyond routine operation and maintenance, undertaken on a farm to
36 repair, restore, or improve lands preserved for farmland
37 preservation purposes, such as the installation of deer fencing, soil
38 and water conservation projects, and projects that improve the
39 resiliency of farmland soils, have become prohibitively costly due
40 to inflation and other cost factors. A higher cap on grant amounts
41 to farmers for farmland stewardship activities will allow larger
42 scale projects to be undertaken.