

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4029

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

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SYNOPSIS

Authorizes county agriculture development boards to purchase agricultural supplies for sale to New Jersey farmers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on October 22, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning private markets for the purchase and sale of
2 agricultural products and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Agricultural product aggregator” means a non-public vendor
10 that is a duly-organized business or non-profit organization
11 authorized to do business in this State, which may enter into a
12 contract with a board for the purchase of agricultural products, and
13 offers a centralized source of agricultural resources or assets, on
14 behalf of multiple end-use farmers.

15 “Board” means a county agriculture development board
16 established by a county pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1983, c.32
17 (C.4:1C-14), which develops and adopts programs for the long-term
18 encouragement of the agricultural business in the State.

19 “Committee” means the State Agriculture Development
20 Committee established pursuant to section 4 of the “Right to Farm
21 Act,” P.L.1983, c.31 (C.4:1C-4).

22 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

23 “Farmer Supply Link Program” or “program” means the program
24 for purchase of discounted agricultural supplies for sale to eligible
25 New Jersey farmers, established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

26 “Opportunity buying” means the purchasing of agricultural
27 products from vendors at a significant discount that are only
28 available for a short period of time before the agricultural products
29 become unavailable for purchase.

30
31 2. a. The committee, in consultation with the department, shall
32 develop a bulk purchasing program designed to reduce individual
33 farmers’ supply costs, to be called the “Farmer Supply Link Program.”
34 The program shall be administered by ¹**the** boards, and may be
35 organized by a third party, ¹**certified** non-profit ¹**agency**
36 organization exempt from federal taxation pursuant to section
37 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s. 501
38 (c)(3))¹. The purpose of the program ¹**is** shall be¹ to support New
39 Jersey farmers in purchasing agricultural supplies, developing
40 agricultural capital, and accessing agricultural assets. The goal of this
41 program shall be to mitigate the costs of starting and managing a farm
42 business, and to maintain and improve the resilience of the farming
43 industry.

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 AAP committee amendments adopted October 22, 2026.

1 b. Through the program, boards may enter into ¹purchase
2 agreement¹ contracts with experienced agricultural product
3 aggregators, whose sale price is most advantageous to the board in
4 accordance with subsection d. of this section, for the purchase of bulk
5 agricultural supplies. New Jersey farmers ¹participating in the
6 program shall pay an annual fee established pursuant to subsection d.
7 of this section and¹ may then pre-order and purchase agricultural
8 supplies ¹through the program¹. These supplies may include ¹,¹ but
9 ¹~~are~~ ¹shall¹ not ¹~~be~~¹ limited to ¹,¹ equipment, compost, fertilizer,
10 fuel, farm infrastructure, seeds, livestock, and pesticides. A board
11 shall not arrange for such a contract unless those agricultural supplies
12 are provided at a discounted or reduced rate.

13 c. The order and sale of agricultural products through ¹~~this~~ ¹the¹
14 program shall be exclusive to eligible New Jersey farmers, as
15 determined by the department and the committee.

16 d. Each board shall develop ¹program¹ rules ¹~~,~~ ¹establishing¹ fee
17 schedules, ¹procurement¹ goals, and formats for the distribution of
18 agricultural supplies. The rules ¹~~must~~ ¹shall¹ establish guidelines for
19 practicing opportunity buying strategies for off-contract purchases of
20 agricultural supplies from an agricultural product aggregator. The
21 rules ¹~~must~~ ¹shall¹ establish specific, reasonable, and measurable
22 benchmarks towards achieving ¹~~the~~¹ procurement goals. Fees
23 established by each board shall be reasonable, adjusted annually in
24 direct proportion to the percentage change in the Consumer Price
25 Index, and not less than the amount necessary to allow the board to
26 recover all costs associated with ¹~~the~~ implementation and
27 enforcement of the ¹~~executing a~~ purchasing contract, including ¹all¹
28 direct, indirect, and administrative costs. Any revenue collected by the
29 board from purchasing agricultural supplies through the program in
30 excess of the minimum fees established by the board shall be
31 ¹~~deposited as a credit to the Preserve New Jersey Farmland~~
32 ~~Preservation Fund~~ ¹refunded to program participants¹.

33 e. ¹~~In the first year a board participates in the program, the board~~
34 shall request grants from the committee, which shall make awards
35 from the Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund. The
36 committee shall establish eligibility and prioritization criteria for
37 award of funds to eligible boards. Subsequent to the first year of the
38 program, any contract by a board with an agricultural product
39 aggregator for the purchase of agricultural supplies shall be payable
40 only from amounts derived from the collection of the fees established
41 under subsection d. of this section.

42 f.]¹ Boards are authorized, either through the adoption of
43 ¹program¹ rules ¹~~and regulations~~¹, or through the terms of the
44 purchase agreements made pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to
45 establish terms governing the use of agricultural supplies purchased
46 through the program. ¹~~These~~ ¹The program¹ rules ¹~~and~~

1 regulations¹ may include, but are not limited to, prioritization
2 systems for new and beginning farmers or farmers with demonstrated
3 financial need.

4

5 3. Boards are authorized to participate in programs of the United
6 States Department of Agriculture, or any other agency or
7 instrumentality of the federal government, or ¹with¹ any program of
8 any other State agency, in the administration of the program.

9

10 4. The department, ¹in consultation with¹ the committee ¹and¹
11 and boards ¹,¹ may adopt, in accordance with the “Administrative
12 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and
13 regulations as necessary to implement this act.

14

15 5. This act shall take effect immediately.