

Subject Agriculture
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Overview

This is the 2021 omnibus agriculture policy bill. It modifies statutes pertaining to the Good Food Access and Bioincentive programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Eligible projects.
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Modifies eligibility for MDA's Good Food Access Program. Eliminates a requirement that eligible food projects must be located in an underserved community or must serve primarily underserved communities in low-income and moderate-income areas, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 17.1017, subdivision 1.

Specifically, "underserved community" means a census tract that is federally designated as a food desert by the United States Department of Agriculture, or a census tract in a low-income or moderate-income area that includes a substantial subpopulation such as the elderly or the disabled that has low supermarket access, regardless of distance, due to lack of transportation. "Low-income area" means a census tract that has a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or in which the median family income does not exceed 80 percent of the greater of the statewide or metropolitan median family income. "Moderate-income area" means a census tract in which the median family income is between 81 percent and 95 percent of the median family income for that area.

2	Qualifications for receipt of financing and other financial or technical assistance.
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Modifies eligibility for MDA's Good Food Access Program. Eliminates the requirement that Good Food Access Program applicants must agree to apply for the ability to accept Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits and, if approved, to accept WIC benefits.

Section	Description
3	Agricultural cellulosic biomass sourcing plan. Modifies MDA's Bioincentive Program to provide that companies producing advanced biofuel from corn kernel fiber or biogas are not required to submit a responsible biomass sourcing plan to MDA.
4	Agricultural cellulosic biomass sourcing plan. Modifies MDA's Bioincentive payment program to provide that companies producing renewable chemicals from corn kernel fiber or biogas are not required to submit a responsible biomass sourcing plan to MDA.



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