

HB 1253 -- ORGANIC-READY CITY DESIGNATION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Lavender

This bill creates the Organic-Ready City Designation Program within the Department of Agriculture. The program is a voluntary program by which a municipality may apply to become designated as an Organic-Ready City.

To qualify as an organic-ready city, the municipality must meet certain requirements that show the county encourages the use of locally grown organic food and promotes urban agriculture. By March 31, 2016, the department must establish application requirements and review procedures for the program. Any municipality that receives an organic-ready designation must submit a report annually to the department. The report may not be longer than one page and the department must allow on-line submission of the report. If the department determines a county no longer meets the requirements of the program, it may withdraw the designation.

The department must develop an organic-ready city logo and any municipality designated as an organic-ready county may use the logo on any sign, brochure, website, or other marketing material. Any organic-ready city may request the Department of Transportation erect and maintain signs designating it as organic-ready, with the cost to be paid for by the municipality. The department must publish and maintain a list of organic-ready cities on its website.