

HB 1010 -- AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Ross

This bill authorizes the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a pilot program, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to provide for agricultural education in elementary schools in the state. The purpose of the program is to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural education program statewide.

The bill states that DESE shall select a minimum of one public elementary school from each of the 16 geographic areas across the state. The local school board for each elementary school selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to implement and fully fund an elementary agricultural education program for a period of at least 3 years.

The curriculum for this program will be established through a collaboration of DESE and local school districts, and such curriculum must meet the criteria set forth in the bill.

A program evaluation regarding the success and impact of the pilot program shall be provided by DESE, and shall report the results of such evaluation to the relevant House and Senate committees on agriculture and education.

This bill is similar to SB 218 (2019).