

HB 1125 -- PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Weber

Currently, a taxpayer may claim a tax credit equal to 50% of his or her eligible expenses for establishing or improving an urban farm. This bill limits the size of an eligible urban farm to not more than five acres and allows eligible expenses of establishing or improving a small-scale specialty crop farm in a food desert to be included in expenses eligible for the tax credit.

This bill also creates the "Socially Disadvantaged Communities Outreach Program" within the Department of Agriculture to connect historically unserved and underserved communities with access to healthy fresh food. The Department must designate an employee to administer and monitor the program and to serve as a liaison to affected communities.

Annually, on or before December 31st, the Department shall submit a report to the General Assembly that details the number of residents who received training, number of tax credits issued, and recommendations for legislative action to improve the Program.