

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2025-008

2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND
4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY INCENTIVES AIMED AT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF
5 BEGINNING FARMERS IN THE STATE.

6
7 WHEREAS, the number of farmers in the state is decreasing; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the average age of farmers in the state is increasing, which
10 means the number of farmers in the state will continue to decrease if the
11 state does not incentivize and support beginning farmers; and

12
13 WHEREAS, it is difficult for people who are not already engaged in
14 farming to become farmers because they do not have the equity needed to get
15 an adequate loan to begin farming operations; and

16
17 WHEREAS, agricultural production will suffer if the state does not make
18 it easier for people to become farmers and support beginning farmers in
19 becoming established; and

20
21 WHEREAS, providing incentives for beginning farmers and for experienced
22 farmers to help beginning farmers become established in agricultural
23 production would benefit the state; and

24
25 WHEREAS, states have taken various approaches to providing incentives
26 to encourage an increase in the number of beginning farmers; and

27
28 WHEREAS, some states offer beginning farmer tax credits for farmers who
29 lease or sell their agricultural property or equipment to a beginning farmer;
30 and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

WHEREAS, some states assist beginning farmers in purchasing farmland through the use of agricultural conservation easements; and

WHEREAS, at least one (1) state provides down-payment assistance for beginning farmers; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state to increase the number of farmers in the state to ensure the continued production of agricultural products on which the state and the nation rely,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development study the various incentives the state can offer to increase the number of beginning farmers in the state and the economic impact of the incentives studied.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative DeAnn Vaught
District 87

Prepared by: JLL/JLL

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11