## Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Aronberg

27-1598A-06 See HB 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to agricultural disaster assistance; amending s. 570.249, F.S.; 3 expanding the conditions under which loan funds 4 5 to certain agricultural producers may be б granted; increasing the maximum amount of a 7 loan; providing definitions; providing an 8 appropriation; providing an effective date. 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 10 11 12 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 570.249, Florida 13 Statutes, is amended to read: 570.249 Agricultural Economic Development Program 14 disaster loans and grants and aid. --15 (1) USE OF LOAN FUNDS.--16 17 (a) Loan funds to agricultural producers who have experienced <del>crop</del> losses from a natural disaster or a 18 socioeconomic condition or event may be used to: 19 1. Restore, or replace, or remove debris from 20 21 essential physical property., such as animals, fences, 22 equipment, structural production facilities, and orchard 23 trees; 2.4 <u>2.</u> Pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year  $\cdot$ 25 3. Pay essential family living expenses .; and 26 27 4. Restructure farm debts. 2.8 (b) Funds may be issued as direct loans, or as loan guarantees for up to 90 percent of the total loan, in amounts 29 not less than \$30,000 nor more than \$300,000 \$250,000. 30 Applicants must provide at least 10 percent equity. 31

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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1 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the term: 2 "Losses" means crop loss or damage to an 1. 3 agricultural facility or infrastructure or farmworker housing 4 owned by an agricultural producer. 2. "Essential physical property" means animals, 5 б fences, equipment, structural production facilities, other 7 agricultural facility or infrastructure or farmworker housing owned by an agricultural producer, and orchard trees. 8 Section 2. The sum of \$50 million is appropriated from 9 10 the General Revenue Fund to the General Inspection Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 11 12 fiscal year 2006-2007 for the purpose of providing loan funds 13 under s. 570.249, Florida Statutes, to agricultural producers who experienced losses during the 2005 calendar year. 14 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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