

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Agriculture

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BILL: SB 872

INTRODUCER: Senator Grimsley

SUBJECT: Young Farmers and Ranchers

DATE: January 10, 2018

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST         | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE  | ACTION           |
|----|-----------------|----------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. | <u>Akhavein</u> | <u>Becker</u>  | <u>AG</u>  | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 2. | _____           | _____          | <u>AEN</u> | _____            |
| 3. | _____           | _____          | <u>AP</u>  | _____            |

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**I. Summary:**

SB 872 establishes the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department). Individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 with less than 10 years of farming experience or veterans as defined in s. 1.01, F.S., would be eligible. Each grant award would be between \$5,000 and \$20,000 and a recipient would be eligible for no more than one award per year. Annual grant funding for the program is contingent upon specific annual appropriation by the Legislature.

**II. Present Situation:**

Currently, there are no grant programs or councils within the department specifically to assist young farmers and ranchers. The department does provide resources through its Agricultural Industry,<sup>1</sup> Grant Opportunity,<sup>2</sup> and Business Development<sup>3</sup> public webpages. At this time, financial resource content is limited to assisting growers with export operations.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** creates s. 570.842, F.S., to create the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Matching Grant Program. It requires grants to be administered by the department to foster the creation and

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<sup>1</sup> Information pertaining to the agricultural industry may be retrieved from <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Agriculture-Industry/Search-by-Industry>.

<sup>2</sup> Information pertaining to grant opportunities can be retrieved from <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Grant-Opportunities>.

<sup>3</sup> Information pertaining to business development can be retrieved from <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Marketing-and-Development/Agriculture-Industry/Business-Development-Resources/Exporting-Florida-Agricultural-Products>.

expansion of agricultural businesses by young farmers and ranchers in Florida. It requires the department to adopt rules regarding the program. To be eligible, grant recipients must be:

- An agricultural producer who is at least 18 years of age but younger than 35 years of age;
- An agricultural producer who is a veteran;
- Have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years;
- Demonstrate, at a minimum, a dollar-for-dollar matching investment for grant money requested; and
- Timely in submitting a grant application.

The bill specifies that each grant award must be between \$5,000 and \$20,000 and no more than one award per year may go to a recipient. Annual grant funding for the program is contingent upon specific annual appropriation by the Legislature.

**Section 2** creates s. 570.843, F.S., to create the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council within the department. It specifies the membership and terms of the council and its statutory requirements. It also specifies issues that the council may examine and after provide findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Section 3** creates s. 570.844, F.S., authorize the department to establish on its website a clearinghouse for resources available to young and beginning farmers and ranchers. These resources could include local, state, federal, and private sources of grants, loans, and scholarships, as well as general resources on finance and business planning.

**Section 4** provides that this act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Indeterminate.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill would likely have a minor fiscal impact on the department. Temporary staff may be needed to manage the application and grant award process, but existing staff could handle the administrative policy drafting.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates sections 570.842, 570.843, and 570.844 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.