A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the agriculture and timber
operations cost-share program; creating s. 570.891,
F.S.; providing a short title; providing legislative
findings; establishing a cost-share program within the
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services,
subject to legislative appropriation; requiring the
Office of Agricultural Water Policy and the Florida
Forest Service within the department and the
Department of Environmental Protection to make certain
determinations regarding the agriculture and timber
industry; requiring the department to adopt rules;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 570.891, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

570.891 Agriculture and timber operations cost-share
program.

(1) This act may be cited as the "Protecting Florida's
Natural Resources Act."

(2) The Legislature finds that:

(a) Maintaining healthy and sustainable agriculture and
timber industries is vital to the state's environment and
natural resources, including significant environmental
ccontributions to water quality and quantity, air purification,
carbon sequestration, and habitat for threatened and endangered
wildlife species.

(b) The continued expansion of urban and coastal areas has
increased pressure on the agriculture and timber industries and
in recent years, there has been a significant decrease in
agricultural and timber acreage.

(c) To ensure healthy sustainable agriculture and timber
industries, a cost-share program is necessary to provide
incentives to owners of agriculture and timber operations to
continue such activities to the benefit of water quality and
quantity, air purification, carbon sequestration, and habitat
for threatened and endangered wildlife species.

(3) There is a cost-share program established within the
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, subject to
legislative appropriation, to reimburse the owners of
agriculture and timber operations for up to 75 percent of the
value of the environmental resources and services provided.

(4)(a) The Office of Agricultural Water Policy and the
Florida Forest Service within the department shall determine the
value of water recharge, stormwater filtration, wildlife
habitat, carbon sequestration, and air quality benefits provided
by the agriculture and timber industries.

(b) The Department of Environmental Protection shall work
with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and the agriculture and timber industries to identify industry research that is needed and determine the value of the environmental services provided by such industries.

(5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.