

CHAPTER 2018-85

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 872

An act relating to young farmers and ranchers; creating s. 570.843, F.S.; creating the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council within the department; specifying membership of the council; providing for staggered terms; specifying the meetings, powers, duties, procedures, and recordkeeping of the council; specifying that the council may submit findings and recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture; specifying the issues the council may examine; creating s. 570.844, F.S.; requiring the department to establish a clearinghouse on its website for resources to assist young and beginning farmers and ranchers; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 570.843, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

570.843 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council.—

(1) There is created within the department the Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Advisory Council, to consist of 12 members to be appointed by the commissioner. Initially, 6 members shall be appointed by the commissioner for a 1-year term and 6 members for a 2-year term. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for 2-year terms.

(2) The meetings, powers, duties, procedures, and recordkeeping of the Florida Young Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Council shall be pursuant to s. 570.232.

(3) The council may submit to the commissioner, annually, findings and recommendations for mitigating challenges facing aspiring farmers and ranchers in the early stages of their careers. The council may examine issues that include, but are not limited to, access to land, availability of credit and capital, and access to business skills training.

Section 2. Section 570.844, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

570.844 Florida Young Farmer and Rancher Resource Clearinghouse. The department shall establish on its website a clearinghouse for resources available to young and beginning farmers and ranchers, including, but not limited to, local, state, federal, and private sources of grants, loans, and scholarships, as well as general resources on finance and business planning. The clearinghouse also must include resources available to beginning agricultural producers who are veterans as defined in s. 1.01.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 2018.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 23, 2018.