

HOUSE BILL NO. 5203

November 06, 2019, Introduced by Reps. Witwer, Hammoud, Ellison, Kennedy, Love, Lasinski, Hood, Clemente, Sowerby, Shannon, Tate, Manoogian, Sabo, Cherry, Pagan, Brixie, Haadsma, Wittenberg, Guerra and Bolden and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to create the office of the small farms coordinator in the executive branch; and to provide for the powers and duties of certain state departments and officials.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 1. As used in this act:
- 2 (a) "Coordinator" means the small farms coordinator.
- 3 (b) "Department" means the department of agriculture and rural
- 4 development.
- 5 (c) "Farm" means that term as defined in section 2 of the
- 6 Michigan right to farm act, 1981 PA 93, MCL 286.472.



1 (d) "Office" means the office of the small farms coordinator
2 created under this act.

3 (e) "Small farm" means a farm that is organized as a
4 proprietorship, partnership, or family corporation, that is not
5 operated by a hired manager, and that has gross sales less than
6 \$250,000.00.

7 Sec. 3. (1) The office of the small farms coordinator is
8 created in the department.

9 (2) The governor shall appoint a small farms coordinator with
10 the advice and consent of the senate. The individual appointed as
11 the coordinator must be qualified by training and experience to
12 perform the duties and exercise the powers of the office and the
13 coordinator.

14 Sec. 5. The coordinator shall establish procedures for the
15 office for budgeting, expending money, and employing personnel
16 according to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL
17 18.1101 to 18.1594.

18 Sec. 7. The office shall do all of the following:

19 (a) Promote diversification of agriculture.

20 (b) Assist in connecting and communicating small farm concerns
21 with proper state departments or state agencies and follow the
22 inquiry through to completion.

23 (c) Create and operate an internet website for small farms
24 that does all of the following:

25 (i) Provides resources to support small farms that build,
26 expand, or modify operations.

27 (ii) Provides instructions and support on the application for
28 and receipt of relevant permits and licenses.

29 (iii) Maintains a list that contains up-to-date state and



1 federal laws and regulations that impact small farms.

