

From: Rep.Oldenburg
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:25 PM
To: *Legislative All Senate; *Legislative All Assembly
Subject: Updated: Co-sponsorship of LRB- 4247/1, relating to: farmer tuition assistance grants and making an appropriation.
Attachments: 19-4247_1.pdf

From: Rep.Oldenburg
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 4:03 PM
To: *Legislative All Assembly <ALLASM@legis.wisconsin.gov>; *Legislative All Senate <ALLSEN@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Co-sponsorship of LRB- 4247/1, relating to: farmer tuition assistance grants and making an appropriation.



CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, September 25, 2019
TO: Legislative Colleagues
FROM: Representative Oldenburg
RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB- 4247/1, relating to: farmer tuition assistance grants and making an appropriation.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM

This legislation is part of a broader package of bills recommended by the Speaker's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. This bipartisan task force was created in March of 2019 and held six public hearings across the state with the charge of evaluating the current resources for suicide prevention and identifying opportunities to target and assist at-risk individuals.

The Task Force hearing in Marshfield focused on farmer's mental health. This bill creates an appropriation through DATCP to make farmer tuition assistance grants. These grants can be used to complete courses at a technical college that pertain to farm and business management techniques. Several technical colleges across Wisconsin offer Farm Business and Production Management courses that would be eligible for these tuition assistance grants.

Increasing the availability of this program is crucial to both beginning and established farmers. The community environment that is created when farmers gather together allows them to foster support from each other, and realize that others are facing the same issues as them. The testimony given from Professor John Shutske a UW Extension specialist, at the Marshfield hearing, states that a suicide concern in farmers is disconnecting from their support system. Expanding the reach and accessibility of this program will allow farmers to build a community while learning.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please respond to this e-mail or contact Leah in Representative Oldenburg's office at 6-3534 by **Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM**

If you or someone you know is struggling, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 or text "HOPELINE" to 741741.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an appropriation for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to make farmer tuition assistance grants. Current law authorizes DATCP to make grants to low-income farmers for paying all or part of the tuition for courses on farm and business management techniques offered by a technical college.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

You can also find the interim report, in its entirety, [here](#).



State of Wisconsin
2019 - 2020 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4247/1

KP:amn

2019 BILL

1 AN ACT *to create* 20.115 (4) (f) of the statutes; **relating to:** farmer tuition
2 assistance grants and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates an appropriation for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to make farmer tuition assistance grants. Current law authorizes DATCP to make grants to low-income farmers for paying all or part of the tuition for courses on farm and business management techniques offered by a technical college.

For further information see the **state** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert
4 the following amounts for the purposes indicated:

BILL

SECTION 1

2019-20

2020-21

1 **20.115 Agriculture, trade and consumer**
2 **protection, department of**

3 (4) AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

4 (f) Farmer tuition assistance grants GPR B 50,000 50,000

5 **SECTION 2.** 20.115 (4) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

6 20.115 (4) (f) *Farmer tuition assistance grants.* Biennially, the amounts in the
7 schedule for farmer tuition assistance grants under s. 93.51 (2) (b).

8 (END)