



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fourth Legislature, First Regular Session

AMENDED
FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1476

agricultural workforce; interns; appropriation

Purpose

Establishes, effective January 1, 2020, the Agricultural Workforce Development Program (Program) to provide incentives for a food-producing agricultural organization to hire interns. Appropriates \$275,000 in FY 2020 from the state General Fund to the Arizona Department of Agriculture (AZDA) to implement the Program.

Background

The AZDA oversees and protects Arizona's agriculture, business and public health through licensing, inspections and laboratory testing. Additionally, the AZDA coordinates agricultural education efforts to foster an understanding of Arizona's agriculture and to promote a more efficient cooperation and understanding among agricultural educators, producers, dealers, buyers, mass media and the consuming public ([A.R.S. § 3-107](#)).

S.B. 1476 appropriates \$275,000 from the state General Fund to the AZDA in FY 2020.

Provisions

Program (effective January 1, 2020)

1. Establishes the Program, effective January 1, 2020, to provide incentives to a food-producing agricultural organization to hire interns through partial reimbursement of internship costs.
2. Requires the Director of AZDA (Director) to adopt rules necessary to carry out the Program and requires the rules to establish:
 - a) qualifications for a food-producing agricultural organization to participate in the Program, including need and the ability of the business to effectively supervise an intern and provide the intern with meaningful work experience;
 - b) internship requirements including the requirement that the internship provides at least 130 hours of work experience for a maximum duration of six months per intern;
 - c) criteria for a food-producing agricultural organization to select qualified interns, including an intern's required educational experience and ability to perform meaningful work for the business;
 - d) the process and time frame for selecting qualified food-producing agricultural organizations and qualified interns;
 - e) accounting requirements for tracking internship costs; and
 - f) the process for a food-producing agricultural organization to seek reimbursement.

3. Authorizes the AZDA, subject to legislative appropriation, to reimburse a qualified food-producing agricultural organization a maximum of 50 percent of the actual cost to the food-producing agricultural organization to employ an intern.
4. Requires the Director to determine how many internships to approve, the amount of reimbursement per internship and whether a food-producing agricultural organization can be reimbursed for more than one internship in the same fiscal year.
5. Prohibits a food-producing agricultural organization from being reimbursed for more than three internships in the same fiscal year.
6. Defines *actual cost* as the wages paid to an intern, a reasonable allocation of fixed overhead expenses and all incidental costs directly related to the internship.
7. Terminates the Program on July 1, 2025.

Appropriation

8. Appropriates \$275,000 in FY 2020 from the state General Fund to the AZDA to implement the Program.

Miscellaneous

9. Defines *agricultural organization* as a business, nonprofit organization or community college program related to agriculture.
10. Becomes effective on the general effective date, with a delayed effect as noted.

Amendments Adopted by Committee

1. Replaces the qualified employers to implement the Program from an agricultural business to a food-producing agricultural organization, including a business, nonprofit organization or a community college agriculture program.
2. Makes conforming changes.

Senate Action

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Prepared by Senate Research

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KN/LD/gs