

ASSEMBLY, No. 4029

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Sponsored by:

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District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

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SYNOPSIS

Authorizes county agricultural development boards to contractually purchase supplies for sale to New Jersey farmers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/7/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning private markets for the purchase and sale of
2 agricultural products and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Agricultural product aggregator” means a non-public vendor
10 that is a duly-organized business or non-profit organization
11 authorized to do business in this State, which may enter into a
12 contract with a board for the purchase of agricultural products, and
13 offers a centralized source of agricultural resources or assets, on
14 behalf of multiple end-use farmers.

15 “Board” means a county agriculture development board
16 established by a county pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1983, c.32
17 (C.4:1C-14), which develops and adopts programs for the long-term
18 encouragement of the agricultural business in the State.

19 “Committee” means the State Agriculture Development
20 Committee established pursuant to section 4 of the “Right to Farm
21 Act,” P.L.1983, c.31 (C.4:1C-4).

22 “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

23 “Farmer Supply Link Program” or “program” means the program
24 for purchase of discounted agricultural supplies for sale to eligible
25 New Jersey farmers, established pursuant to section 2 of this act.

26 “Opportunity buying” means the purchasing of agricultural
27 products from vendors at a significant discount that are only
28 available for a short period of time before the agricultural products
29 become unavailable for purchase.

30

31 2. a. The committee, in consultation with the department, shall
32 develop a bulk purchasing program designed to reduce individual
33 farmers’ supply costs, to be called the “Farmer Supply Link
34 Program.” The program shall be administered by the boards, and
35 may be organized by a third party, certified non-profit agency. The
36 purpose of the program is to support New Jersey farmers in
37 purchasing agricultural supplies, developing agricultural capital,
38 and accessing agricultural assets. The goal of this program shall be
39 to mitigate the costs of starting and managing a farm business, and
40 to maintain and improve the resilience of the farming industry.

41 b. Through the program, boards may enter into contracts with
42 experienced agricultural product aggregators, whose sale price is
43 most advantageous to the board in accordance with subsection d. of
44 this section, for the purchase of bulk agricultural supplies. New
45 Jersey farmers may then pre-order and purchase agricultural
46 supplies. These supplies may include but are not limited to
47 equipment, compost, fertilizer, fuel, farm infrastructure, seeds,
48 livestock, and pesticides. A board shall not arrange for such a

1 contract unless those agricultural supplies are provided at a
2 discounted or reduced rate.

3 c. The order and sale of agricultural products through this
4 program shall be exclusive to eligible New Jersey farmers, as
5 determined by the department and the committee.

6 d. Each board shall develop rules, fee schedules, goals, and
7 formats for the distribution of agricultural supplies. The rules must
8 establish guidelines for practicing opportunity buying strategies for
9 off-contract purchases of agricultural supplies from an agricultural
10 product aggregator. The rules must establish specific, reasonable,
11 and measurable benchmarks towards achieving the procurement
12 goals. Fees established by each board shall be reasonable, adjusted
13 annually in direct proportion to the percentage change in the
14 Consumer Price Index, and not less than the amount necessary to
15 allow the board to recover all costs associated with the
16 implementation and enforcement of the purchasing contract,
17 including direct, indirect, and administrative costs. Any revenue
18 collected by the board from purchasing agricultural supplies
19 through the program in excess of the minimum fees established by
20 the board shall be deposited as a credit to the Preserve New Jersey
21 Farmland Preservation Fund.

22 e. In the first year a board participates in the program, the board
23 shall request grants from the committee, which shall make awards
24 from the Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund. The
25 committee shall establish eligibility and prioritization criteria for
26 award of funds to eligible boards. Subsequent to the first year of
27 the program, any contract by a board with an agricultural product
28 aggregator for the purchase of agricultural supplies shall be payable
29 only from amounts derived from the collection of the fees
30 established under subsection d. of this section.

31 f. Boards are authorized, either through the adoption of rules
32 and regulations, or through the terms of the purchase agreements
33 made pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to establish terms
34 governing the use of agricultural supplies purchased through the
35 program. These rules and regulations may include, but are not
36 limited to, prioritization systems for new and beginning farmers or
37 farmers with demonstrated financial need.

38

39 3. Boards are authorized to participate in programs of the
40 United States Department of Agriculture, or any other agency or
41 instrumentality of the federal government, or with any program of
42 any other State agency, in the administration of the program.

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44 4. The department, the committee, and boards may adopt, in
45 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
46 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations as necessary to
47 implement this act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill would establish a “Farmer Supply Link Program”
7 (program) to support New Jersey farmers in purchasing bulk
8 agricultural supplies, developing agricultural capital, and accessing
9 agricultural assets at a discounted rate. The goal of this program is
10 to mitigate the costs of starting and managing a farm business, and
11 to maintain and improve the resilience of the farming industry. This
12 bill addresses recommendations from the New Jersey Department of
13 Agriculture’s report, “The Next Generation of Farming in New
14 Jersey.”

15 The bill authorizes the State Agricultural Development
16 Committee and Department of Agriculture to develop a bulk
17 purchasing program designed to reduce individual farmers’ supply
18 costs, to be called the “Farmer Supply Link Program.” The
19 program is to be administered by county agricultural development
20 boards (boards). The bill establishes several definitions specific to
21 the program, such as for strategic purchasing practices required in
22 each boards’ procurement and goal setting efforts.

23 Under the program, boards would be authorized to enter into
24 contracts or purchase agreements with established agricultural
25 product aggregators to purchase discounted bulk agricultural
26 supplies. Agricultural party aggregators would participate in the
27 “Farmer Supply Link Program” under the oversight of a third party,
28 non-profit agency. Agricultural supplies may include equipment,
29 compost, fertilizer, fuel, farm infrastructure, seeds, livestock, and
30 pesticides. Supplies would then be ordered by and sold to farmers.

31 The bill authorizes boards to establish rules, regulations, fee
32 schedules, and formats for the distribution of agricultural supplies.
33 Fees are required to be reasonable, Consumer-Price-Adjusted, and
34 sufficient to recover all costs associated with the implementation
35 and enforcement of the purchasing contract, including direct,
36 indirect, and administrative costs. Boards are also authorized to
37 establish terms governing the use of agricultural supplies purchased
38 through the program. Any excess revenue collected by a board
39 from the purchase of agricultural supplies through the “Farmer
40 Supply Link Program” in excess of the minimum fees established
41 by the board are to be deposited as a credit to the Preserve New
42 Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund. In establishing rules and
43 regulations for auctions and product distribution, boards are
44 authorized to include prioritization of new and beginning farmers,
45 or farmers with demonstrated financial need. Boards are also
46 authorized to participate in programs administered by federal
47 departments and agencies in implementing the “Farmer Supply Link
48 Program.”

1 In the first year a board participates in the program, boards are to
2 request grants from the committee, which shall then make awards
3 from the Preserve New Jersey Farmland Preservation Fund. The
4 committee shall establish eligibility and prioritization criteria for
5 award of funds to eligible boards. Subsequent to the first year of
6 the program, any contract by a board with a agricultural product
7 aggregator for the purchase of agricultural supplies shall be payable
8 only from amounts derived from the collection of auction fees.