

HOUSE No. 4420

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, September 8, 2025.

The committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 119) of Mindy Domb for legislation to establish a separate fund to be known as the agriculture and fishery vulnerability preparedness grant fund to address the impact of climate change on farms and fisheries, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4420) ought to pass.

For the committee,

NATALIE M. BLAIS.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to address the impact of climate change on farms and fisheries.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
2 section 2HHHHHH the following section:-

3 Section 2IIIIII. Agriculture and Fishery Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Fund

4 (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate
5 fund to be known as the Agriculture and Fishery Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Fund. The
6 fund shall be administered by the commissioner of the department of agricultural resources in
7 consultation with the commissioner of the department of fish and game. The fund shall be
8 credited with: (i) revenue from appropriations or other money authorized by the general court
9 and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) interest earned on such revenues; and
10 (iii) funds from public and private sources such as gifts, grants and donations. Amounts credited
11 to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and any money remaining in the fund at
12 the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund; provided, however, that such
13 contributions shall not be further restricted by the donor or used by the commonwealth for any

14 other purpose. Any bond proceeds deposited into the fund shall be kept separate from any and
15 all other funds deposited into the fund.

16 (b) The public purpose of this fund shall be to administer the agriculture and fishery
17 vulnerability preparedness grant program to support farms and fisheries in Massachusetts to
18 engage in the process of (i) planning climate change adaptation and resiliency initiatives, (ii)
19 seeking resources to support implementation, and (iii) implementing priority projects. In
20 furtherance of this public purpose, the commissioner, in consultation with the department of fish
21 and game, shall administer the fund as grants to farms and fisheries to support controlled climate
22 growing, energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate resilient management practices, nature-
23 based solutions to climate impacts, infrastructure needs to support climate resilience,
24 development and implementation of data collection and monitoring to measure the impact of
25 these investments, and other eligible purposes as determined by the secretary and the
26 commissioners.

27 (c) Program funds may be used to establish and provide technical assistance to support
28 farms and fisheries to prioritize, develop, and submit applications, plan climate change
29 adaptation and resiliency initiatives, and identify and seek funding sources to support project
30 implementation.

31 (d) Program funds shall be awarded to applicants from each eligible sector as categorized
32 by farm or fishery with consideration to objectives of regional and sector eligibility.

33 (e) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations for the administration and
34 implementation of subsections (a) and (b). The commissioner shall file any policies, rules and

35 regulations with the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries for review and comment at least
36 30 days before the effective date of the policies, rules or regulations.

37 (f) The commissioner shall file a quarterly report with the house and senate committees
38 on ways and means, the joint committee on agriculture and fisheries, and the clerks of the house
39 and the senate on the following: (i) a list of grant applicants and the counties in which they are
40 located, (ii) list of grant recipients and the counties in which they are located, (iii) the amount of
41 funds requested by applicants, (iv) the associated grant amounts, (v) the applicant's sector as
42 categorized by farm or fishery, (vi) an annual statement detailing the sources and uses of funds,
43 (vii) a forecast of future payments based on current binding obligations, and (viii) a detailed
44 breakdown of the purposes and amounts of administrative costs charged to the fund. The report
45 shall include a description of technical assistance services provided as part of this program.

46 SECTION 2. Section 1 shall take effect immediately upon the passage of this act.