

## Joint Committee on Agriculture

### Bill Summary

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.119
<b>Title:</b>	An Act to address the impact of climate change on farms and fisheries
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Representatives Domb of Amherst, Blais of Deerfield, Hong of Lowell, and Arena-DeRosa of Holliston
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:00 PM, B-2
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Saturday, July 12, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	S.60 (Senator Fernandes- Identical)

#### **Prior History:**

2023-2024: Filed as H.91; Referred to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied a redraft H.4289; Reported favorably to House Ways and Means where no further action was taken

#### **CURRENT LAW:**

Chapter 29 of the Massachusetts General Laws establishes the General Fund and many special funds.

**SUMMARY:**

This bill amends Chapter 29 by inserting a new section 2RRRRR, which would establish the Agriculture and Fishery Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Fund. This fund would be managed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), in consultation with the commissioner of the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) and the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The fund will be given money when appropriated to it by the Legislature, interest, and other sources like gifts and donations. Any money given to the fund will not revert to the General fund if unused, and any gifts or donations cannot be conveyed with a specified use.

Money in the fund will be used to administer an agriculture and fishery vulnerability preparedness program to assist these industries with emergency preparedness for environmental changes. This includes the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation and resiliency projects. Secondary needs to support implementation can also be funded with this grant program. Applicable projects include those which mitigate the effects of climate change, prioritize clean energy or energy efficient renovations, and data collection to enable further implementation. Funds may also go to technical assistance for applications.