

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

Bill Summary

Bill Number:	H.4430
Title:	An Act promoting agriculture resilience and sustainability
Sponsor:	Representative Hogan of Stow
Cosponsors:	None
Hearing Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 PM - 01:00 PM, B-1
Reporting Date:	Saturday, November 15th, 2025
Similar Matters:	None

Prior History

New file; No prior history

Current Law

Chapter 29 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to state finance. Section 5G of chapter 29 pertains to excess capital gains funds. If taxes collected from capital gains income total over \$1 billion in a fiscal year, the excess above this amount is not directed to the General Fund. Instead, 90% of this excess is transferred to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund, 5% is transferred to the State Retiree Benefits Trust and 5% is transferred to the Commonwealth Pension Liability Fund.

Chapter 128 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to agriculture. Section 7A of chapter 128 includes definitions for terms concerning arboriculture, gardening, soil health, and other terms.

Summary

This bill amends the existing language regarding excess tax on capital gains income. 70% of excess tax would be transferred to the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund, 10% would be transferred to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund, 10% would be transferred to the Commonwealth's Pension Liability Fund, and 10% would be transferred to the Disaster Relief and Resiliency Trust Fund.

This bill indemnifies farmers whose farms have been contaminated by PFAS due to historically approved soil amendment practices. This bill creates a fund for farmers impacted by PFAS contamination.

This bill inserts a definition for regenerative agriculture.

This bill requires the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) to develop a program to compensate farmers who focus on environmentally friendly farming practices. MDAR is also required to prioritize funding for greenhouses and other controlled-environment agriculture systems, projects using renewable energy and sustainable materials and for the creation of a revolving loan fund offering zero interest loans for farmland purchases and supporting underserved farmers.

This bill requires MDAR to prioritize urban agriculture development by supporting the transformation of vacant lots and expanding their urban agriculture program.

This bill requires MDAR to prioritize renewable energy and sustainability by supporting agrivoltaics projects, funding research on the impact of solar installations on agriculture productivity, and expanding grants and discounts for energy efficiency improvements.

This bill requires MDAR to fund vocational agricultural programs and on-farm internships, provide student debt relief for graduates working in agriculture-related fields for at least 10 years, establish a network of advisors to provide long-term support for farmers, and fund UMass Extension.

This bill requires MDAR to simplify their grant application process, allow grant funds to be expended for used equipment purchases, and improve the equity and accessibility of grants through bridge loans and translation services for applications and outreach materials.

This bill requires MDAR to conduct a biennial agriculture survey to collect data on land use, production, and economic impact. This bill requires MDAR to establish and collaborate with UMass Extension to create a state agriculture resilience task force to oversee the implementation of these new requirements.