**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 46‑3‑290 SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE SOUTH CAROLINA URBAN FARMING GRANT PROGRAM, AND PROVIDE FOR ITS OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3, Title 46 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 46‑3‑290. (A) There is created the South Carolina Urban Farming Grant Program to provide grants to private and public entities located in South Carolina for the purpose of transitioning convicted felons into the workforce with a career in farming in an urban area. The Department of Agriculture shall administer the program.

(B) There is established in the State Treasury a separate and distinct fund known as the ‘South Carolina Urban Farming Grant Fund’. The fund must be used only by the Department of Agriculture to operate the South Carolina Urban Farming Grant Program.

(C) The Department of Agriculture shall establish procedures, grant requirements, eligibility requirements, and distribute funds. The department may prescribe forms and issue policy documents as necessary to ensure the orderly and timely implementation of the provisions herein.

(D) Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2019‑2020 annual general appropriations act, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to the South Carolina Urban Farming Grant Fund.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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