

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 3.2-311 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Local Food and Farming*
3 *Infrastructure Grant Program.*

4
5 Approved

[H 323]

6
7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That § 3.2-311 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

9 **§ 3.2-311. Local Food and Farming Infrastructure Grant Program.**

10 A. The Governor may award grants from the Fund for the Local Food and Farming Infrastructure
11 Grant Program to encourage efforts by political subdivisions to support agriculture and forestry.

12 B. Any funds awarded by the Governor pursuant to this section shall be awarded as reimbursable
13 grants of no more than ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000 per grant to political subdivisions to support community
14 infrastructure development projects that support local food production and sustainable agriculture.

15 C. The Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry shall develop guidelines for the Local Grant Program
16 and administer the Local Grant Program on behalf of the Governor. Such guidelines shall (i) include a
17 requirement that any political subdivision applying for a grant provide matching funds, (ii) require that
18 grants be awarded on a competitive basis, and (iii) state the criteria the Governor will use in evaluating
19 any grant application submitted pursuant to this section. Such guidelines shall favor projects that
20 establish or maintain (a) farmers markets pursuant to Chapter 35 (§ 3.2-3500 et seq.); (b) food hubs; or
21 (c) processing facilities that are primarily locally owned, including commercial kitchens, packaging and
22 labeling facilities, animal slaughtering facilities, or other facilities, and that are primarily utilized for the
23 processing of meats, dairy products, produce, or other products. Such guidelines shall favor projects that
24 create infrastructure in proximity to small-scale agricultural producers.

25 D. The guidelines developed pursuant to subsection C may (i) allow contributions to a project by
26 certain specified entities, such as a nonprofit organization or charitable foundation, to count as eligible
27 local matching funds and (ii) accept a reduced match requirement for an economically distressed locality
28 applying for an award.

ENROLLED

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