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H.328

Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott and Hill of Wolcott

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; workforce development

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to provide support for the workforce development efforts of Salvation Farms.

An act relating to supporting workforce development at Salvation Farms

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. FINDINGS

The General Assembly finds:

(1) Salvation Farms is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization that provides job readiness training in food handling and light manufacturing to Vermonters with barriers to employment, including recovery from substance abuse, past incarceration, physical or mental disability, homelessness, age, and refugee status.

(2) Salvation Farms began gleaning in 2004, collecting surplus crops from farms to distribute to Vermonters in need. In 2008, it built the Vermont Food Bank's gleaning program and, in 2012, founded the Vermont Gleaning Collective. Since its inception, the organization has supported the distribution

1 of more than five million food servings to food shelves, Meals on Wheels,  
2 affordable and senior housing, and a variety of care facilities.

3 (3) In 2016, Salvation Farms began operating its food hub, the Vermont  
4 Commodity Program, where it provides job readiness training relating to  
5 collecting, preparing, and distributing food throughout its distribution network.

6 (4) Support from the State of Vermont will allow Salvation Farms to  
7 relocate from its current headquarters in Winooski to a larger, permanent  
8 location and allow the organization to expand its mission, provide additional  
9 job readiness training, and distribute more Vermont-grown food to those in  
10 need.

11 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

12 It is the intent of the General Assembly:

13 (1) in fiscal year 2020, to appropriate funding to Salvation Farms for  
14 planning and buildout of infrastructure needed to move its job readiness  
15 training program and food hub into a new permanent location; and

16 (2) to provide ongoing funding support to Salvation Farms to support its  
17 job readiness training program.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.