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**Act No. 78 (S.60). An act relating to establishing the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund to provide payments for farm and forestry operation losses due to weather conditions**

**Subjects: Funding; agriculture; disaster relief**

This act establishes the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund from which the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets shall award payments to persons owning farms and forestry operations that have incurred financial losses or expenses due to an eligible weather condition. The act defines “eligible weather condition” as any weather condition that is found to be closely correlated with agricultural or forest operation income losses, including high winds; excessive moisture, intense precipitation, or flooding; extreme heat; abnormal freeze conditions; a forest fire or wild fire event; hail; or drought.

Payments from the Fund shall be in an amount that reimburses a farm or forestry operation for up to 50 percent of the unreimbursed, uninsured, or otherwise uncovered losses due to eligible weather conditions, up to a maximum annual award of five percent of the undesignated and unreserved funds in the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund at the beginning of each fiscal year, provided that the award shall not exceed \$150,000.00 per qualified applicant farm or forestry operation per year. Losses reimbursable by a payment from the Fund include wages or compensation; replacement of lost income from destroyed crops, impacted livestock, or timber; debt payments or other ongoing expenses; costs of replanting; livestock feed replacement costs; infrastructure or equipment repair and replacement; repair of farm roads or roads necessary to access farms; repair of washed out or otherwise damaged logging roads; inability to access harvested timber due to flooding or other weather conditions; and other losses as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets after consultation with the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund Review Board.

The act creates the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund Review Board to review applications for assistance from the Farm and Forestry Operations Security Special Fund and recommend to the Secretary applicants who should receive assistance.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026