

File Number: H.F. 1165
Version: First engrossment

Date: March 1, 2017

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Subject: Legal aid; farmers

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This bill eliminates the unique income eligibility criteria for farmers who seek assistance from organizations that provide legal services. Under current law, a farmer is not eligible for legal aid if the farmer's federal adjusted gross income exceeds \$15,000.

With this bill, income eligibility for farmers would be indexed to Federal Poverty Guidelines, as it is for others who request legal aid. In general, legal aid is available to individuals and families with income that does not exceed 125 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines. According to federal regulations, in 2017 a family of one that qualifies for legal aid can have no more than \$15,075 of income; income for a family of four cannot exceed \$30,750 (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Subtitle B, Chapter XVI, Part 1611).

Under this bill, farmers would remain subject to a unique asset-to-debt eligibility standard. Under current law, farmers eligible for legal aid in Minnesota must have a debt-to-asset ratio greater than 50 percent (ln 2.20).