

Subject Farmer mental health; farm advocates

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Overview

This bill would provide additional money in state fiscal year 2019 for statewide mental health counseling support to farm families and business operators and for other related purposes. The additional \$100,000 would supplement funding previously appropriated for farmer mental health counseling and farm advocate services in Laws 2017, chapter 88, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5. The bill would make a corresponding \$100,000 reduction to a fiscal year 2019 appropriation for the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program.

The Omnibus Supplemental Budget Act passed by the 2018 legislature and vetoed by Governor Mark Dayton would have provided additional funding in fiscal year 2019 for similar purposes (Laws 2018, ch. 201). As in the vetoed language, this bill would add Central Lakes College as an additional fiscal agent for the mental health funding.