

Subject Agriculture

Authors Vang and Others

Analyst Colbey Sullivan

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## Summary

This bill would appropriate \$750,000 per year to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to award down payment assistance grants to eligible applicants. Under current law, the base funding level for this program in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 is also \$750,000 per year.

Established by the legislature in 2022, the Down Payment Assistance Grant Program provides cost-share grants of up to \$15,000 to eligible farmers to purchase farmland in Minnesota. To be eligible, the farmer: must be a Minnesota resident who grosses no more than \$250,000 from the sale of farm products; cannot have previously owned farmland; and must provide most of the day-to-day labor and management of the farm they purchase.

H.F. 1057 would reserve 50 percent of the funding each year for farmers who satisfy the program's general eligibility criteria and also meet the bill's definition of "emerging farmer."