CHAPTER 19 — S.F.No. 546

An act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the state board of vocational technical education and the agricultural extension service of the University of Minnesota.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.**

The legislature finds that a crisis situation exists in rural Minnesota that demands state action. The legislature finds that there is a lack of comprehensive, sound, financial data on which to design a state relief program for farmers. The severe problems facing farmers require an immediate and comprehensive data collection effort to thoroughly document the extent and nature of the problem in order to allow the state to design an agriculture program that will best utilize the state's limited resources and best direct the state resources to the farmers who are most in need. The legislature further finds that this crisis can in part be eased and this need be met by providing additional support for efforts of the agricultural extension service and vocational technical education system aimed at enhancing farm financial recordkeeping and evaluating existing farm financial information.

Sec. 2. **TASK FORCE CREATED.**

Subdivision 1. **MEMBERSHIP.** The data collection task force is created to consist of two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house, two members of the senate appointed by the senate committee on committees, the director of the agricultural extension service, the director of the vocational technical education system, a representative appointed by the governor, and two representatives appointed by the commissioner of agriculture.

Subd. 2. **DUTIES.** The duties of the data collection task force are to:

(1) develop a uniform procedure for collecting data on the financial status of agriculture in Minnesota;

(2) oversee the implementation of the farm crisis intervention act; and

(3) report the results of the program to the legislature no later than December 31, 1985.

Subd. 3. **REPORT.** The report to the legislature must summarize the financial condition of farmers in Minnesota and include summary statistics on the number of foreclosures, the degree and extent of delinquent payments, the amount and types of outstanding debt including information on the interest charged on that debt, the levels and changes in levels on farm asset values, the level of income and expenditures, and the relevant tax burdens. The report must

Changes or additions are indicated by <u>underline</u>, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

also include any other information that the data collection task force determines is relevant. The staff needed to assemble the report shall come from the existing staff of the agricultural extension service and the vocational technical education system.

Subd. 4. **DATA PRIVACY.** To the extent allowable under the data privacy act, all data shall be summarized and made available for release to the legislature. The task force shall forward the public information that it collects to the department of agriculture.

Subd. 5. **COMPENSATION.** The expenses and per diem payments of the legislative members of the task force shall be paid from the legislative expense fund of their respective body. Compensation and expenses for nonlegislative members of the task force shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 15.059 except that payments shall be as follows. Public employees will not receive the $35 per day and will not be subject to the corresponding loss of compensation and benefits as required by section 15.059. Members who are not public employees will receive compensation and expenses as provided in section 15.059. Compensation and expenses of nonlegislative members shall be paid in equal parts by the legislative expense funds of the house and senate.

Subd. 6. **EXPIRATION.** The data collection task force shall cease to exist within ten days of submitting its report to the legislature.

Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATIONS; STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

There is appropriated $1,166,550 from the general fund to the state board of vocational technical education to provide farm financial crisis intervention services as follows:

(1) Computer software, hardware, and training	$564,200
(2) Support staff vo-ag farm management instructors	$159,000
(3) Travel supplement for vo-ag agents	$ 54,600
(4) Tuition supplement	$150,000
(5) Project activity, coordination, and publicity	$ 40,000

(6) Emergency financial planning and loan
processing support for FMHA $198,750

        This appropriation is not subject to the allocation procedures for instruc-
tional aid in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 136C.

        Sec. 4.   **APPROPRIATIONS; A.E.S.**

        Subdivision 1.   **FARM CRISIS INTERVENTION.** There is appropriat-
ed $402,500 from the general fund to the University of Minnesota for use by its
agricultural extension service in providing farm financial crisis intervention
services as follows:

(1) Computer hardware, software training
and compensation $277,500

(2) Travel supplement for agricultural exten-
sion service agents $100,000

(3) Project activity, coordination, and pub-
licity $ 25,000

        Subd. 2.   **LIMITATION.** The money appropriated in this section is in
addition to money already available to the agricultural extension service and may
not be used to pay for programs, staff, or materials which are already budgeted or
funded.

        Sec. 5.   **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

        This act is effective the day following final enactment.

        Approved April 16, 1985

        CHAPTER 20 — H.F.No. 327

        *An act relating to transportation; defining "trees" and "hedges" for purposes of
removal from highway right of way; amending Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 160.22, by
adding a subdivision.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

        Section 1.   Minnesota Statutes 1984, section 160.22, is amended by add-
ing a subdivision to read:

        Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout.~~