

AgrAbility

This Act directs the state department of agriculture, in cooperation with the state university extension service, to contract with a non-profit provider to establish and administer a program to help disabled farmers.

Submitted as:

Illinois

Public Act 94-216

Status: Enacted into law in 2005.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act may be cited as “The AgrAbility Act.”

2

3 Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

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5 (A) “AgrAbility Unlimited” means a joint program of the [state university extension and
6 the Easter Seals] established in accordance with the AgrAbility Program established by the U.S.
7 Department of Agriculture.

7

8 (B) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture.

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9 (C) “Director” means the Director of Agriculture.

9

10 (D) “Production agriculture” has the meaning set forth in [insert citation].

10

11 Section 3. [*AgrAbility Program Established.*]

12

13 (A) Subject to appropriation, the Department, in cooperation with the [state university
14 extension], shall contract with a non-profit disability service provider or other entity that assists
15 disabled farmers, to establish and administer an AgrAbility Program to help people who are
16 engaged in farming or an agriculture-related activity and who have been affected by disability.

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17 (B) Services provided by the AgrAbility Program shall include, but are not limited to, the
18 following:

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19 (1) a toll-free information and referral hotline;

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20 (2) the establishment of networks with local agricultural and rehabilitation
21 professionals;

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22 (3) the coordination of community resources;

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23 (4) the establishment of networks with local agricultural and health care
24 professionals to help identify individuals who may be eligible for assistance and to help identify
25 the best method of providing that assistance;

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26 (5) the provision of information on and assistance regarding equipment
27 modification;

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27 (6) job restructuring; and

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28 (7) the provision of information on and assistance regarding the development of
29 alternative jobs.

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30 (C) In order to provide these services, the AgrAbility Program shall cooperate and share
31 resources, facilities, and employees with [AgrAbility Unlimited, the University Extension, and
32 the Office of Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Human Services.] The costs of the
33 program, including any related administrative expenses from the [Department], may be paid

34 from any funds specifically appropriated or otherwise available to the [Department] for that
35 purpose. The [Department] may pay the costs of the state AgrAbility program by making grants
36 to the operating entity, by making grants directly to service providers, by paying reimbursements
37 for services provided, or in any other appropriate manner.

38 (D) The [Department] has the power to enter into any agreements that are necessary and
39 appropriate for the establishment, operation, and funding of the AgrAbility Program. The
40 [Department] may adopt any rules that it determines necessary for the establishment, operation,
41 and funding of the AgrAbility Program.

42

43 Section 4. [*Eligibility.*]

44 (A) To be eligible to receive assistance under this Act, an individual must meet all of the
45 following:

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(1) be a resident of this state;

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(2) derive at least a portion of his or her income from production agriculture;

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(3) be affected by a disability; and

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(4) meet any additional eligibility requirements set forth by the Department, in

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conjunction with the [University Extension].

51

(B) A [state AgrAbility Fund] is created as a special appropriated fund within the state
52 treasury. The [Director] shall also accept and deposit into the Fund all gifts, grants, transfers, and
53 other amounts from any legal source, public or private, that are designated for deposit into the
54 Fund. All interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall be deposited into the Fund.

55

(C) Subject to appropriation and as directed by the [Director], money in the [state
56 AgrAbility Fund] may be expended for the [state AgrAbility Program] and for no other purpose.
57 No more than [15%] of the money expended in a fiscal year for the Program may be expended
58 for administrative costs.

59

60 Section 5. [*Reports.*] Unless otherwise required by federal law, the [state University
61 Extension] must provide the [Department] with a copy of any report or other document that it
62 provides to the U.S. Department of Agriculture concerning [AgrAbility Unlimited]. The non-
63 profit disability service provider or other entity awarded a contract must annually update the
64 [state University Extension] and the [Department] in writing on the status of the [state
65 AgrAbility Program].

66

67 Section 6. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

68

69 Section 7. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

70

71 Section 8. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]