

2025 -- S 0850 SUBSTITUTE A

LC002471/SUB A

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- FARMLAND PRESERVATION ACT

Introduced By: Senators Patalano, Thompson, Gallo, Burke, Britto, Dimitri, Appollonio, Raptakis, Vargas, and de la Cruz
Date Introduced: March 19, 2025

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-82-16 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-82 entitled "Farmland
2 Preservation Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-82-16. Charges for utility extension.**

4 (a) No city, town, quasi-municipal corporation, or public corporation may assess the owner
5 of an agricultural operation having frontage on a public roadway for the extension of water and
6 sewer utilities past the property.

7 **(b)"Connection fees", for purposes of this section, mean any impact fee or connection fee**
8 **or any other fee designed to circumvent the prohibition contained in this section. "Connection fee"**
9 **shall not include any administrative, overhead, or equipment fee or the construction costs related**
10 **to extension of or connection to a water main.**

11 **(c) No city, town, quasi-municipal corporation or public corporation shall assess the owner**
12 **of an agricultural operation as defined in § 2-23-4, or agricultural land as defined in § 42-82-2, in**
13 **existence as of July 1, 2025 and having frontage on a public roadway, a connection fee for the**
14 **extension of water utilities past the property. The protection afforded by this section shall be null**
15 **and void and the assessments made if the owner of the agricultural operation develops or sells to**
16 **other than a qualifying agricultural operation the property or farmland.**

17 ~~(b)~~(d) The owner of the agricultural operation may only be charged for the extension of
18 sewer utilities if the owner has requested the utility extension. The agricultural operation may tie

1 into any [sewer](#) utility extension made past that property for the normal cost of tie-in and no cost for
2 the infrastructure improvement except for its base usable charge. The protection afforded by this
3 section shall be null and void and the assessments made if the owner of the agricultural operation
4 develops or sells to other than a qualifying agricultural operation the property or farmland ~~within~~
5 ~~twenty (20) years of the date the utility extensions were operational.~~

6 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- FARMLAND PRESERVATION
ACT

- 1 This act would prohibit any city, town, quasi-municipal corporation or public corporation
- 2 from assessing any existing agricultural operation or agricultural land for the extension of any water
- 3 utilities past the property and from imposing any connection fee.
- 4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC002471/SUB A
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