

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to agritourism; creating ss. 570.96-  
 3           570.962, F.S., relating to agritourism; directing the  
 4           Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to assist  
 5           specified entities in agritourism promotion and marketing  
 6           initiatives; providing definitions; specifying the impact  
 7           of agritourism participation on certain classifications  
 8           and certifications; specifying participation requirements;  
 9           providing an effective date.

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11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13           Section 1. Sections 570.96, 570.961, and 570.962, Florida  
 14 Statutes, are created to read:

15           570.96 Agritourism.--The Department of Agriculture and  
 16 Consumer Services is directed to provide marketing advice,  
 17 technical expertise, promotional support, and product  
 18 development related to agritourism to assist the following in  
 19 their agritourism initiatives: the Florida Commission on  
 20 Tourism; the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation,  
 21 doing business as VISIT Florida; convention and visitor bureaus;  
 22 tourist development councils; economic development  
 23 organizations; and local governments. In carrying out this  
 24 responsibility, the department shall focus its efforts on  
 25 fostering agritourism in rural and urban communities.

26           570.961 Definitions.--As used in ss. 570.96-570.962, the  
 27 term:

28           (1) "Agritourism activity" means any activity carried out

29 on a farm or ranch or in a forest that allows members of the  
 30 general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational  
 31 purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming,  
 32 ranching, historical, cultural, harvest-your-own, or nature-  
 33 based activities and attractions. An activity is an agritourism  
 34 activity whether or not the participant paid to participate in  
 35 the activity.

36 (2) "Agritourism professional" means any person who is  
 37 engaged in the business of providing one or more agritourism  
 38 activities, whether or not for compensation.

39 (3) "Farm" means the land, buildings, support facilities,  
 40 machinery, and other appurtenances used in the production of  
 41 farm or aquaculture products, including land used to display  
 42 plants, animals, farm products, or farm equipment to the public.

43 (4) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as defined in s.  
 44 823.14.

45 570.962 Agritourism participation impact on land  
 46 classification and on Florida Farm Winery Program  
 47 certifications; participation requirements.--

48 (1) In order to promote and perpetuate agriculture  
 49 throughout the state, farm operations are encouraged to engage  
 50 in agritourism. The conduct of agritourism activity on a bona  
 51 fide farm or on agricultural lands classified as such pursuant  
 52 to s. 193.461 shall not limit, restrict, or divest the land of  
 53 that classification.

54 (2) Nothing in this section affects the certification  
 55 provisions associated with the Florida Farm Winery Program  
 56 created under s. 599.004.

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57           (3) No permit, license, approval, or authorization is  
58 required to engage in agritourism.

59           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.