

By the Committee on Agriculture; and Senator Haridopolos

575-2276-07

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to agritourism; creating ss.

3 570.96-570.962, F.S., relating to agritourism;

4 directing the Department of Agriculture and

5 Consumer Services to assist specified entities

6 in agritourism promotion and marketing

7 initiatives; providing definitions; specifying

8 the impact of agritourism participation on

9 certain classifications and certifications;

10 specifying participation requirements;

11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Sections 570.96, 570.961, and 570.962,

16 Florida Statutes, are created to read:

17 570.96 Agritourism.--The Department of Agriculture and

18 Consumer Services may provide marketing advice, technical

19 expertise, promotional support, and product development

20 related to agritourism to assist the following in their

21 agritourism initiatives: the Florida Commission on Tourism,

22 convention and visitor bureaus, tourist development councils,

23 economic development organizations, and local governments. In

24 carrying out this responsibility, the department shall focus

25 its agritourism efforts on fostering agritourism in rural and

26 urban communities.

27 570.961 Definitions.--As used in ss. 570.96-570.962,

28 the term:

29 (1) "Agritourism activity" means any activity carried

30 out on a farm or ranch or in a forest that allows members of

31 the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or

1 educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities,
2 including farming, ranching, historical, cultural,
3 harvest-your-own, or nature-based activities and attractions.

4 An activity is an agritourism activity whether or not the
5 participant paid to participate in the activity.

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

9 (3) "Farm" means the land, buildings, support
10 facilities, machinery, and other appurtenances used in the
11 production of farm or aquaculture products, including land
12 used to display plants, animals, farm products, or farm
13 equipment to the public.

14 (4) "Farm operation" has the same meaning as in s.
15 823.14.

16 570.962 Agritourism participation impact on land
17 classification and on Florida Farm Winery Program
18 certifications; participation requirements.--

19 (1) In order to promote and perpetuate agriculture
20 throughout the state, farm operations are encouraged to engage
21 in agritourism. The conduct of agritourism activity on a bona
22 fide farm or on agricultural lands classified as such pursuant
23 to s. 193.461 shall not limit, restrict, or divest the land of
24 that classification.

25 (2) Nothing in this section affects the certification
26 provisions associated with the Florida Farm Winery Program
27 created under s. 599.004.

28 (3) No permit, license, approval, or authorization by
29 any governmental entity or jurisdiction is required to engage
30 in agritourism.

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

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4 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
5 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
6 Senate Bill 2754

7 The Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2754 is different
8 from Senate Bill 2754 in that it:

- 9 1. Eliminates a negative fiscal impact on the General
10 Revenue Fund;
- 11 2. Removes a reference to the Florida Tourism Industry
12 Marketing Corporation; and
- 13 3. Qualifies that no permit, license, approval, or
14 authorization from a governmental entity or jurisdiction
15 is required to engage in agritourism.