

HB 901 - SB 874

FISCAL NOTE



Fiscal Review Committee
Tennessee General Assembly

February 14, 2025

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SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Tennessee Century Farms Act* recognizing the historical significance of farms that have been in continuous family operation for over 100 years. Defines "century farm" as a farm that: has at least 10 acres, generates at least \$1,000 in annual revenue, has remained in the founder's family continuously for at least 100 years, and is owned in whole or in part by at least one Tennessee resident. Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to create a Century Farms Program, set qualification criteria, designate a historic preservation center for administration, and provide commemorative signs at no cost. Requires DOA to maintain a farm database, collaborate with the Historical Commission, and promote awareness of historic farms.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes farms that have been in continuous family operation for at least 100 years. Administered by the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), in partnership with DOA, the program certifies qualifying farms and promotes their historical and agricultural significance. The Tennessee Historical Commission supports these efforts by providing expertise in historic preservation, assisting with National Register documentation, and contributing to public education initiatives. To date, nearly 2,100 farms have been certified across the state.
- Since the Tennessee Century Farms Program is already established and functioning through partnerships with MTSU and the Historical Commission, the proposed legislation serves to codify its operations into law. Therefore, the proposed legislation will not increase state expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Bojan Savic, Executive Director