

# HOUSE BILL No. 4563

May 2, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Rendon, Lauwers, VanderWall and Barrett and referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

A bill to amend 1855 PA 105, entitled

"An act to regulate the disposition of the surplus funds in the state treasury; to provide for the deposit of surplus funds in certain financial institutions; to lend surplus funds pursuant to loan agreements secured by certain commercial, agricultural, or industrial real and personal property; to authorize the loan of surplus funds to certain municipalities; to authorize the participation in certain loan programs; to authorize an appropriation; and to prescribe the duties of certain state agencies,"

by amending section 2a (MCL 21.142a), as amended by 2007 PA 176.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

HOUSE BILL No. 4563

1           Sec. 2a. (1) The state treasurer may invest surplus funds  
2 under the state treasurer's control in certificates of deposit or  
3 in a financial institution that qualifies with proof of financial  
4 viability acceptable to the state treasurer under this act to  
5 receive deposits or investments of surplus funds. In addition to  
6 terms that may be prescribed in the investment agreement by the

1 state treasurer, an investment under this section shall be subject  
2 to all of the following conditions and restrictions:

3 (a) The interest accruing on the investment shall not be more  
4 than the interest earned by the financial institution on qualified  
5 agricultural loans made after the date of the investment.

6 (b) The financial institution shall provide good and ample  
7 security as the state treasurer requires and shall identify the  
8 qualified agricultural loans and the terms and conditions of those  
9 loans that are made after the date of the investment that are  
10 attributable to that investment together with other information  
11 required by this act.

12 (c) As established in the investment agreement by the state  
13 treasurer, a qualified agricultural loan shall be made at a rate or  
14 rates of interest, if any.

15 (d) To the extent the financial institution has not made  
16 qualified agricultural loans as defined by subsection (9)(a) in an  
17 amount at least equal to the amount of the investment within 90  
18 days after the investment, the rate of interest payable on that  
19 portion of the outstanding investment shall be increased to a rate  
20 of interest provided in the investment agreement, with the increase  
21 in the rate of interest applied retroactively to the date on which  
22 the state treasurer invested the surplus funds.

23 (e) For a qualified agricultural loan as defined by subsection  
24 (9)(a), the investment agreement shall provide that the financial  
25 institution does not have to repay any principal within the first  
26 24 months after which the investment is made unless the investment  
27 is no longer being used to make a qualified agricultural loan as

1 defined by subsection (9) (a), or to the extent the qualified  
2 agricultural loan has been repaid.

3 (f) For a qualified agricultural loan as defined by subsection  
4 (9) (a), the investment agreement may include incentives for the  
5 early repayment of the investment and for the acceleration of  
6 payments in the event of a state cash shortfall as prescribed by  
7 the investment agreement.

8 (2) An investment made under this section is found and  
9 declared to be a valid public purpose.

10 (3) The attorney general shall approve documentation for an  
11 investment pursuant to this section as to legal form.

12 (4) The state treasurer shall deposit before May 1, 2002 up to  
13 \$30,000,000.00 of surplus funds with the financial institutions  
14 participating in making qualified agricultural loans under this  
15 section for the purpose of making those qualified agricultural  
16 loans. Not more than \$10,000,000.00 of this deposit shall be  
17 allocated to qualified agricultural loans made to businesses under  
18 subsection (9) (a) (iii) .

19 (5) Earnings from an investment made pursuant to this section  
20 which are in excess of the average rate of interest earned during  
21 the same period on other surplus funds, other than surplus funds  
22 invested pursuant to section 1 or former section 2, shall be  
23 credited to the general fund of the state. If interest from an  
24 investment made pursuant to this section is below the average rate  
25 of interest earned during the same period on other surplus funds,  
26 other than surplus funds invested pursuant to section 1 or former  
27 section 2, the general fund shall be reduced by the amount of the

1 deficiency on an amortized basis over the remaining term of the  
2 investment. A loss of principal from an investment made pursuant to  
3 this section shall reduce the earnings of the general fund by the  
4 amount of that loss on an amortized basis over the remaining term  
5 of the investment.

6 (6) A new investment to which a qualified agricultural loan as  
7 defined by subsection (9) (a) (ii) is attributed shall not be made  
8 pursuant to this section after October 1, 2002, and shall not be  
9 made with a term which extends beyond October 1, 2007. An  
10 investment to which a qualified agricultural loan as defined by  
11 subsection (9) (a) (iii) is attributed shall not be made pursuant to  
12 this section after October 1, 2002, and shall not be made with a  
13 term extending beyond October 1, 2007. The terms of the qualified  
14 agricultural loan as defined by subsection (9) (a) shall provide  
15 that zero-interest loans under this section be for a term not more  
16 than 5 years and that the first payment made by the recipient occur  
17 not later than 24 months after the date of the loan. An investment  
18 to which a qualified agricultural loan as defined by subsection  
19 (9) (a) (i) is attributed shall not be made with a term extending  
20 beyond October 1, 2007.

21 (7) Annually, each financial institution in which the state  
22 treasurer has made an investment under this section shall file an  
23 affidavit, signed by a senior executive officer of the financial  
24 institution, stating that the financial institution is in  
25 compliance with the terms of the investment agreement and this act.

26 (8) Before October 1, 2003, the state treasurer shall prepare  
27 separate reports to the legislature and the house and senate

1 agriculture appropriations subcommittees regarding the disposition  
2 of money invested for purposes of qualified agricultural loans as  
3 defined by subsection (9) (a) (i) and for qualified agricultural  
4 loans as defined by subsection (9) (a) (ii) and (iii). The reports  
5 for each type of loan shall include all of the following  
6 information:

7 (a) The total number of farmers and the total number of  
8 agricultural businesses who have received such a loan.

9 (b) By county, the total number and amounts of the loans.

10 (c) The name of each financial institution participating in  
11 the loan program and the amount invested in each financial  
12 institution for purposes of such loan program.

13 (d) Any action undertaken by the state treasurer under  
14 subsection (15).

15 (9) As used in this section:

16 (a) "Qualified agricultural loan" means 1 or more of the  
17 following types of loans, as applicable:

18 (i) Until October 1, 2002, a loan to a natural or corporate  
19 person who is engaged as an owner-operator of a farm in the  
20 production of agricultural goods as defined by section 207(1)(d) of  
21 the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1207, who is  
22 experiencing financial stress and difficulty in meeting existing or  
23 projected debt obligations owed to financial institutions due to an  
24 agricultural disaster as requested by the governor at rates  
25 commensurate with rates charged by financial institutions for loans  
26 of comparable type and terms at the time the loan is to be made,  
27 and who certifies to the financial institution that the owner-

1 operator will not have more than \$150,000.00 in outstanding loans  
2 otherwise considered qualified agricultural loans under this  
3 subparagraph, including the loan for which the owner-operator is  
4 applying. If crop insurance was available for a particular crop and  
5 the producer did not purchase the crop insurance for that crop, the  
6 amount of the loan shall be reduced by 30% or \$50,000.00, whichever  
7 is less. A qualified agricultural loan under this subparagraph may  
8 be made for either or both of the following purposes:

9 (A) Operating capital including, but not limited to, capital  
10 necessary for the rental, lease, and repair of equipment or  
11 machinery, crop insurance premiums, and the purchase of seed, feed,  
12 livestock, breeding stock, fertilizer, fuel, and chemicals.

13 (B) Refinancing all or a portion of a loan entered into before  
14 October 1, 2002 for a purpose identified in sub-subparagraph (A).

15 (ii) A loan to an individual, sole proprietorship,  
16 partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that is engaged and  
17 intends to remain engaged as an owner-operator of a farm in the  
18 production of agricultural goods as defined by section 207(1)(d) of  
19 the Michigan business tax act, 2007 PA 36, MCL 208.1207, who has  
20 suffered a 25% or more loss in major enterprises or a 50% or more  
21 production loss in any 1 crop due to an agricultural disaster on a  
22 farm located in this state, as requested by the governor and as  
23 certified by the producer by means of an affidavit demonstrating an  
24 accurate and valid production loss.

25 (iii) A loan to an individual, sole proprietorship,  
26 partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that is engaged in  
27 an agricultural business of buying, exchanging, or selling farm

1 produce, or is engaged in the business of making retail sales  
2 directly to farmers and has 75% or more of its gross retail sales  
3 volume exempted from sales tax under the Michigan agricultural  
4 sales tax exemption, as provided in section 4a(1)(e), **(F), AND (G)**  
5 of the general sales tax act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.54a. Businesses  
6 engaged in the buying, exchanging, or selling of farm produce must  
7 have suffered a 50% or greater loss in volume of 1 commodity as  
8 compared with the average volume of that commodity which the  
9 business handled over the last 3 years to qualify for loans under  
10 this subparagraph. Businesses engaged in making retail sales  
11 directly to farmers must have suffered a 50% or greater reduction  
12 in gross retail sales volume subject to the Michigan agricultural  
13 sales tax exemption as compared with that business's average retail  
14 sales volume subject to that exemption over the last 3 years to  
15 qualify for loans under this subparagraph. All losses claimed by  
16 businesses attempting to qualify for loans under this subparagraph  
17 must be directly attributable to a natural disaster occurring after  
18 January 1, 2001, as requested by the governor and as certified by  
19 the agricultural business by means of an affidavit demonstrating an  
20 accurate and valid loss.

21 (b) "Surplus funds" means, at any given date, the excess of  
22 cash and other recognized assets that are expected to be resolved  
23 into cash or its equivalent in the natural course of events and  
24 with a reasonable certainty, over the liabilities and necessary  
25 reserves at the same date.

26 (c) "Financial institution" includes, but is not limited to,  
27 entities of the farm credit system or a state or federally

1 chartered savings bank. For purposes of this section, entities of  
2 the farm credit system or a state or federally chartered savings  
3 bank may be qualified as a financial institution eligible to  
4 receive an investment under this section notwithstanding that its  
5 principal office is not located in this state if the proceeds of  
6 the investment will be committed to qualified agricultural loans in  
7 this state.

8 (d) "Corporate person" or "corporation" means, except in  
9 relation to a qualified agricultural loan under subdivision  
10 (a) (iii), a corporation in which a majority of the corporate stock  
11 is owned by persons operating the farm applying for a loan.

12 (e) "Facility" means a plant designed for receiving or storing  
13 farm produce or a retail sales establishment of a business engaged  
14 in making retail sales directly to farmers, which establishment has  
15 75% or more of its gross retail sales volume exempted from sales  
16 tax under the Michigan agricultural sales tax exemption, as  
17 provided in section 4a(1)(e), **(F), AND (G)** of the general sales tax  
18 act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.54a.

19 (10) A qualified agricultural loan as defined by subsection  
20 (9) (a) (ii) shall be equal to not more than the value of the crop  
21 loss as certified by the producer by means of an affidavit  
22 demonstrating an accurate and valid production loss. The qualified  
23 agricultural loan shall not exceed the lesser of \$200,000.00 or the  
24 value of the crop loss minus the amount of any grant under federal  
25 disaster assistance or insurance proceeds received by the owner-  
26 operator as a result of the same crop loss. If crop insurance was  
27 available for a particular crop and the producer did not purchase



1 the crop insurance for that crop, the amount of the loan shall be  
2 reduced by 30% or \$50,000.00, whichever is less.

3 (11) A qualified agricultural loan as defined by subsection  
4 (9) (a) (iii) shall not exceed the lesser of the following:

5 (a) \$300,000.00 per facility.

6 (b) An amount not to exceed the value of the direct loss of  
7 the individual, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or  
8 other legal entity making application for the loan, as determined  
9 by the department of treasury under subsection (9) (a) (iii).

10 (c) \$400,000.00 per individual, sole proprietorship,  
11 partnership, corporation, or other legal entity making application  
12 for the loan.

13 (12) The financial institutions participating in the loan  
14 program pursuant to subsection (9) (a) shall have the option of  
15 making state subsidized loans to farmers or to businesses described  
16 in subsection (9) (a) (iii) before October 1, 2002, with terms  
17 approved by the state treasurer by using their existing deposits  
18 for the loans and receiving from the state treasurer an interest  
19 rate subsidy equal to 120% of the state treasurer's common cash  
20 earnings rate. The state's reimbursement to financial institutions  
21 participating in the loan program pursuant to subsection (9) (a)  
22 shall not be made before October 1, 2002.

23 (13) There is hereby appropriated an amount sufficient to make  
24 the distributions required under subsections (4) and (12) in the  
25 2001-02 fiscal year for not to exceed \$210,000,000.00 in qualified  
26 agricultural loans. For each qualified agricultural loan for which  
27 a distribution is made pursuant to subsection (12), the maximum

1 amount of investments authorized by subsection (4) shall be reduced  
2 by an amount equal to 100% or more of the qualified agricultural  
3 loan, as determined by the department of treasury, for which a  
4 distribution is made pursuant to subsection (12).

5 (14) Any money for purposes of qualified agricultural loans as  
6 defined by subsection (9) (a) (ii) that has not been invested by the  
7 state treasurer by October 1, 2002, shall increase the maximum  
8 amount available under this section for qualified agricultural  
9 loans as defined by subsection (9) (a) (i).

10 (15) The state treasurer may take any necessary action to  
11 ensure the successful operation of this section, including making  
12 investments with financial institutions to cover the administrative  
13 and risk-related costs associated with a qualified agricultural  
14 loan.

15 (16) Upon request by the department of treasury, a financial  
16 institution shall forward a copy of any affidavits executed and  
17 filed under this section to the department of treasury. The  
18 financial institution and the department of treasury shall destroy  
19 the affidavit or its copy after the qualified agricultural loan is  
20 paid off.

21 (17) If the recipient of a qualified agricultural loan as  
22 defined by subsection (9) (a) receives a federal grant after the  
23 receipt of a qualified agricultural loan under this section, then  
24 any federal grant money remaining after all federal obligations are  
25 met shall be allocated by the recipient to payment of the balance  
26 of any outstanding loan made under this section.

27 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect

**1** unless Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 4561 (request no.  
**2** 01644'17) of the 99th Legislature is enacted into law.