

FISCAL NOTE

March 30, 2021

Bill No:	HB 179	Printer's No:	147	Sponsor:	Kosierowski
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COST / (SAVINGS)

Fund (s)	2020-21	2021-22
General Fund	See Fiscal Impact	See Fiscal Impact

SUMMARY: This bill establishes the Food Establishment Pandemic Disease Remediation Cost Reimbursement Grant Program.

ANALYSIS: This establishes a reimbursement grant program under which food establishments may obtain reimbursement for pandemic disease remediation costs, which is defined as costs incurred by a food establishment to prevent, detect, contain or eliminate a pandemic disease among its employees or others on the premises of the food establishment. Examples of costs may include personal protective equipment, installing physical barriers, tests or vaccines, medical personnel or sanitation equipment and chemicals.

These grants will only be offered in a fiscal year in which funding is made available to the Department of Agriculture (department). Standards and requirements for the program shall be established by order of the Secretary of Agriculture. Standards shall specify a period of time within which a food establishment incurs a pandemic disease remediation cost to be eligible for reimbursement under the program. Grant funds shall only be used to reimburse an eligible pandemic disease remediation cost. Reimbursement shall not exceed the lesser of 50% of the eligible costs or an amount consistent with the published standards and may not be used to reimburse eligible costs being reimbursed under another grant program. Grant money may be prorated to distribute available money to a larger number of grant recipients.

Food establishments that are registered with the department in accordance with the Food Safety Act or are inspected by the Food Safety Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture are eligible to apply for a grant under this program. Applications shall contain contact information, a statement of pandemic disease remediation costs (including copies of paid invoices) and any other information the department may reasonably require.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: This grant program is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. The Department of Agriculture may also use any other money that is made available to the department for grants by federal or state appropriation, donation or other sources.