



1997 ASSEMBLY BILL 223

March 27, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives OTTE, SPRINGER, ZUKOWSKI, HASENOHRL, MUSSER, GARD, REYNOLDS, OLSEN, LORGE, OWENS, HAHN, GOETSCH, BRANDEMUEHL, F. LASEE, GROTHMAN, GUNDERSON and PLOUFF, cosponsored by Senators CLAUSING, C. POTTER, A. LASEE, BUETTNER and FITZGERALD. Referred to Committee on Agriculture.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 71.59 (1) (b) 3. of the statutes; **relating to:** eligibility and
2 certification to receive the farmland preservation credit.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a claimant of the farmland preservation credit is required to supply a number of documents to the department of revenue (DOR) each year in support of the claimant's application. The required documents include a copy of the property tax bill relating to the farmland, certification by the claimant that all taxes owed by the claimant on the property for which the claim is made for the year before the year for which the claim is made have been paid and a copy of the farmland preservation agreement or a certificate of the appropriate zoning authority.

If the claimant submits a certificate from the appropriate zoning authority, the zoning authority must certify several items, including certification that the lands are within the boundaries of an agricultural zoning district which is part of an adopted ordinance that meets certain standards; that the ordinance has been approved, if necessary, by the town board in which the lands are located; that each structure or improvement on the lands conforms to the requirements of an exclusive agricultural use ordinance; and that certain soil and water conservation standards are met.

Under this bill, if the claimant determines that none of the items that a zoning authority must certify under current law have changed since the last time the claimant obtained zoning authority certification, the claimant is not required to provide DOR with a certificate of the appropriate zoning authority; the claimant instead may certify to DOR that no such changes have occurred.

