

SENATE BILL 1545
By Davis L

AN ACT relative to agricultural extension and development of
aquaculture in Tennessee.

This act makes appropriations to effectuate its purposes in fiscal year 1999-2000 and for the following four years at which time the legislation would be subject to renewal or would be entirely funded and driven by industry.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law, regulation or personnel policy to the contrary, the following positions for aquaculture extension and development services are authorized and established at Tennessee Technological University:

- (1) one professional state aquaculture coordinator,
- (2) one support personnel, and
- (3) technical consultants up to two (2) persons-months per year.

(b) The professional and support staff shall be assigned to contribute to state-wide support for aquaculture extension and increased public awareness for growth in the aquaculture industry; the consultants shall be recruited as necessary to focus on particular technical problems with a regional or state-wide application as with fish hatchery development, fish processing, marketing and other specific areas which could serve as a catalyst for growth in the industry.

(c) There is appropriated a sum sufficient to Tennessee Technological University to fund the salaries and benefits for the positions created pursuant to subsection (a); for

necessary equipment and supplies; for necessary travel expenses and support services for such positions; and to provide and maintain a motor vehicle to provide service to the aquaculture industry in the state of Tennessee.

SECTION 2. Specific outcomes or results to be delivered by the creation of the state aquaculture coordinator include:

- (1) A comprehensive census of aquaculture farmers, their problems and solutions for increased production,
- (2) Warm-water and cold-water aquaculture models for transfer and replication by farmers,
- (3) An annual inventory of aquaculture production in the state,
- (4) Identification of aquaculture supply needs and markets for Tennessee-produced fish and other aquaculture products,
- (5) Establishment of a "fish farmers exchange" for sale and purchase of equipment, fish, feeds, etc.
- (6) Annual aquaculture workshops for existing farmers, investors, bankers and others,
- (7) Encouragement and other non-financial support to the state aquaculture association and other professional groups, and
- (8) A state aquaculture plan and strategy for development.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.