Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, & Water.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

SB21-248  be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

Amend reengrossed bill, page 3, strike lines 12 through 19 and substitute:

"(5) "ELIGIBLE BUSINESS" MEANS:
(a) A BUSINESS THAT:
(I) EARNs A MAJORITY OF ITS REVENUE FROM AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING; AND
(II) IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT:
(A) HAS MANAGERS AND EMPLOYEES WHO POSSESS SUFFICIENT EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE TO OPERATE THE BUSINESS; AND
(B) PROVIDES AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO COLORADO FARMERS OR RANCHERS; OR
(b) A RURAL SCHOOL IN A LARGE RURAL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-54-142 (1)(d), OR A SMALL RURAL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-54-142 (1)(f), WHICH SCHOOL CAN DEMONSTRATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE OR MORE COLORADO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS WHEREBY THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER PROVIDES LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, PLANTS, OR PLANT PRODUCTS TO THE SCHOOL.");.

Page 4, after line 2 insert:

"(7) "FARM-TO-MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT" MEANS A GRANT OF MONEY FROM THE FUND, WHICH MONEY IS USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING.".
Renumber succeeding subsections accordingly.

Page 4, line 6, strike "(7)" and substitute "(8)".

Page 4, line 10, after "ENTITY" insert "WITH AGRICULTURAL LENDING EXPERIENCE AND".

Page 4, line 22, after "PROGRAM." add "NOTHING IN THIS ARTICLE 1.2 MAY BE CONSTRUED AS PERMITTING THE DEPARTMENT TO ENGAGE IN ANY DIRECT LENDING ACTIVITIES.".

Page 4, strike line 24 and substitute "JANUARY 1, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT MAY DISTRIBUTE MONEY FROM THE FUND TO FINANCIAL ENTITIES TO MAKE FARM-TO-MARKET".

Page 4, line 27, strike the second "THE".

Page 5, strike lines 1 and 2.

Page 5, strike line 4 and substitute "2025.".

Page 5, strike line 6 and substitute "MAY AWARD FARM-TO-MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS DIRECTLY TO".

Page 5, lines 9 through 11, strike "THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD THE LOANS EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE USE OF A FINANCIAL ENTITY.".

Page 5, line 13, strike "AWARD:" and substitute "AWARD OR DISTRIBUTE:".

Page 5, line 16, after "LOANS" insert "OR FARM-TO-MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS".

Page 5, strike lines 24 through 27 and substitute:

"(4) WHEN THE DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS WITH ONE OR MORE FINANCIAL ENTITIES PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,".

Page 6, line 6, strike "LOAN," and substitute "LOAN OR GRANT,".
Page 6, line 10, after "AWARDING" insert "GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTING MONEY TO FINANCIAL ENTITIES FOR AWARDING".

Page 6, strike lines 18 through 21 and substitute:

"(a) REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM APPLICANTS AT ALL TIMES DURING THE YEAR; EXCEPT THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE REQUIRED".

Page 6, line 25, after "LOANS" insert "OR GRANTS".

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