

STATE OF NEW YORK

5462--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 17, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a farm-to-school task force; and to amend the education law, in relation to requiring all public schools to provide fresh foods to students in a manner that supports local agriculture

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivision 5-b of section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

(d) Establish a task force to study and make recommendations on how to provide fresh foods in all school districts in the state, while supporting New York local agriculture, and increasing market opportunities for farmers from under-represented communities, including but not limited to farmers who are black, indigenous, and people of color. Such task force shall be composed of nine members who shall possess expertise in issues relating to the work of the task force. Two members shall be appointed by the governor, two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the assembly, one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate and one member shall be the commissioner or his or her designee. The commissioner or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of the task force. Members of the task force shall be appointed no later than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this paragraph. Vacancies shall be filled within thirty days in the same manner provided for original appointments. No later than one year after all initial appointments have been made the task force shall make a report to the governor, the legislature and the commissioner of education of its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 2. Subdivision 31 of section 305 of the education law, as added by
2 chapter 2 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

3 31. The commissioner shall cooperate with the commissioner of agricul-
4 ture and markets in establishing a farm-to-school program and coordinat-
5 ing New York Harvest For New York Kids Week as described in subdivision
6 five-b of section sixteen of the agriculture and markets law. The
7 commissioner's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to,
8 developing a program based on the findings of the task force established
9 pursuant to paragraph (d) of subdivision five-b of section sixteen of
10 the agriculture and markets law, to require all school districts in the
11 state to provide fresh foods to students in a manner that supports New
12 York local agriculture, compiling information for the department of
13 agriculture and markets from school districts and other educational
14 institutions under the department's jurisdiction interested in purchas-
15 ing New York farm products and disseminating to those districts and
16 institutions information from the department of agriculture and markets
17 about the availability of New York farm products, and contact informa-
18 tion for farmers and other businesses marketing such products. The
19 commissioner shall report to the legislature about the need for changes
20 in law to facilitate the purchase of such products by schools and other
21 institutions.

22 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
23 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.