STATE OF NEW YORK

7342--D

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER, BUTTENSCHON, SHIMSKY, JONES, HAWLEY, TAGUE, KAY, FITZPATRICK, WILLIAMS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- 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 the New York state equine industry workgroup

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

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 387 to read as follows:

§ 387. New York state equine industry workgroup. 1. There shall be established within the department the New York state equine industry workgroup, to advise and make recommendations to the state agencies on state government plans, policies and programs affecting all aspects of equine industry, as outlined below, and in such areas as its experience and studies may indicate to be appropriate. The department shall provide necessary secretarial and support services to the workgroup.

2. The commissioner shall convene an annual workgroup of stakeholders which shall include the commissioner or their designee who shall act as chairperson of the board, and representatives of the following stakeholder groups: Cornell university college of agriculture and life sciences; Cornell university college of veterinary medicine; a rescue organization or the humane society; an organization involved in horse sanctuaries or racehorse aftercare; an organization involved in horse therapy; an equine veterinarian; a trail or recreational riding group;

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

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the equine support industry; an organizer of horse shows, rodeos or competitions; horse boarders or riding stables; an urban equestrian organization; the horse breeding industry; farmers and ranchers; an academic researcher; the New York state horse council or a similar organization; the New York state Veterinary Medical Society or a similar organization; and a youth equine organization. Stakeholders shall serve without salary.

3. (a) The duties and responsibilities of the equine advisory workgroup shall include, but not be limited to, providing timely advice, comments and recommendations to the commissioner regarding:

(i) equine-tourism;

(ii) equine industry promotion;

(iii) workforce development;

(iv) educational and training initiatives;

(v) humane treatment of horses; and

(vi) other areas of interest identified by the workgroup.

(b) The commissioner may delegate to the workgroup such additional duties and responsibilities as are deemed necessary.

4. The duties and responsibilities of the equine industry workgroup shall include, but not be limited to, providing timely advice, comments and recommendations to the commissioner and other state agency heads regarding all aspects of the equine industry in the state. Concerned state agencies shall be encouraged to establish a working relationship with the workgroup and shall fully cooperate with the workgroup in any requests it shall make.

5. The commissioner may ask other individuals to attend the equine industry workgroup's meetings or work with it on an occasional or regular basis. The workgroup may establish committees and regional working groups as necessary.

6. The equine industry workgroup shall produce an annual report with recommendations to the commissioner, the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the assembly and the minority leader of the senate within one year of the effective date of this section and every year thereafter concerning its activities during the previous year and its program expectations for the succeeding year.

7. (a) The equine industry workgroup shall advise the commissioner in establishing procedures for making annual awards and grants, within the limits of appropriations made therefor, recognizing New York equine businesses, individuals, and institutions that are successful in innovating, marketing, and/or promoting New York equine industries. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of economic development to determine which department shall make awards and grants in various categories identified by the equine industry workgroup. These awards and grants shall be given in recognition of exceptional performance, innovation and support for New York equine industries by persons, firms and organizations that are principally located within the state of New York and engaged in the operation of New York equine farms, businesses and institutions.

(b) The workgroup may annually nominate and forward such nominations for awards and grants to the commissioner for consideration in the following categories:

(i) veterinary practice and horse welfare;

(ii) equine-tourism;

(iii) workforce development;

(iv) public education;

(v) youth equine activities; and

(vi) such other awards and grants as the equine advisory workgroup shall recommend.

(c) The commissioner shall have the discretion to designate award and grant winners from these nominees. Current members of the workgroup and their businesses are not eligible as nominees.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.