Senate Resolution No. 1257

BY: Senator SEPULVEDA

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 1, 2026, as World Vegan Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 1, 2026, as World Vegan Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Vegan Day; and

WHEREAS, The people of New York State have long valued health, sustainability, economic innovation, and compassion in shaping a more equitable and prosperous future for all residents; and

WHEREAS, An increasing number of New Yorkers are choosing plant-based diets-including vegans, who avoid all animal products, and vegetarians, who abstain from meat but may consume dairy or eggs-thus contributing positively to public health, environmental protection, and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, Plant-based lifestyles are associated with significantly lower risks of chronic illnesses including heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and certain cancers, thereby improving long-term health outcomes and helping to reduce the burden on New York's healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, Adopting a plant-based diet contributes to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water and land resources, and promoting biodiversity, in alignment with New York State's clean energy and sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, Plant-based and vegan eating encourages broader nutritional awareness and healthier food choices in schools, hospitals, and institutions across the state, fostering long-term wellness and education among youth and families; and

WHEREAS, New York's agricultural sector benefits from the rising demand for diverse crops, such as legumes, grains, vegetables, and fruits, encouraging sustainable farming practices, crop diversification, and new markets for local farmers; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses, including independent grocers, restaurants, food producers, and entrepreneurs, are at the forefront of the plant-based movement, helping to drive job creation, economic revitalization, and innovation throughout urban and rural communities alike; and

WHEREAS, The growing popularity of plant-based products has turned New York, particularly cities like New York City and Buffalo, into national and global destinations for vegan dining, creating opportunities for tourism, culinary excellence, and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, Plant-based eating can support food security and affordability when based on staples such as beans, grains, and vegetables, offering practical, nutritious, and budget-friendly options for low-income and underserved communities across the State; and

WHEREAS, Many New Yorkers are motivated by compassion and a desire to reduce harm to animals, and plant-based lifestyles reflect values of kindness, ethical responsibility, and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, Youth and future generations are increasingly embracing plant-based and vegan living, representing a powerful force for civic engagement, innovation, and systemic change toward a healthier and more sustainable world; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the contributions of both vegans and vegetarians honors not only the individuals who choose plant-based lifestyles, but also the farmers, small business owners, educators, healthcare providers, and advocates who support this growing movement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 1, 2026, as World Vegan Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.