STATE OF NEW YORK

5140

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 19, 2025

Introduced by Sens. JACKSON, BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

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 and increases market opportunities for farmers from under-represented communities

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 their designee. The commissioner or their 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.

LBD09974-01-5

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

31. The commissioner shall cooperate with the commissioner of agriculture and markets in establishing a farm-to-school program and coordinating New York Harvest For New York Kids Week as described in subdivision five-b of section sixteen of the agriculture and markets law. The commissioner's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, **developing a program based on the findings of the task force established pursuant to paragraph (d) of subdivision five-b of section sixteen of the agriculture and markets law, to require all school districts in the state to provide fresh foods to students in a manner that supports New York local agriculture while increasing market opportunities for farmers from under-represented communities,** compiling information for the department of agriculture and markets from school districts and other educational institutions under the department's jurisdiction interested in purchasing New York farm products and disseminating to those districts and institutions information from the department of agriculture and markets about the availability of New York farm products, and contact information for farmers and other businesses marketing such products. The commissioner shall report to the legislature about the need for changes in law to facilitate the purchase of such products by schools and other institutions.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.