S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

983

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. HAWLEY, KOLB, GIGLIO, BURLING, ALFANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BACALLES, BARRA, CALHOUN, CROUCH, HAYES, McKEVITT, MILLER, OAKS, QUINN, THIELE, TOWNSEND -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law and the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to assisting agriculture in the state through the agriculture assistance program; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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 article 21-E to read as follows:

ARTICLE 21-E

AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SECTION 258-QQ. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

258-RR. AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

S 258-QQ. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. THE LEGISLATURE HEREBY FINDS THAT AGRICULTURE IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY ECONOMIC UNITS OF THE STATE AND THAT IT IS TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL RESIDENTS THAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IS WARRANTED. FURTHER, AGRICULTURE IN THOSE MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND SERVICES HAVE BEEN HARMED BY NATURAL DISASTER OR WHICH ARE IN DECLARED DISASTER AREAS SHOULD BE GIVEN PREFERENCE IN RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

S 258-RR. AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM AND PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF GIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES IN THE STATE. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE FOR PREFERENCE TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE IN THOSE MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNITIES WHICH HAVE HAD AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

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

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AND SERVICES HARMED BY NATURAL DISASTER OR WHICH ARE LOCATED IN A DECLARED DISASTER AREA. THE FUNDS FOR SUCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHALL BE RECEIVED FROM THE NEW YORK STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. ONLY ENTITIES AND PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND SERVICES SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

S 2. Section 16-h of section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the New York state urban development corporation act, is amended by adding a new subdivision 3-b to read as follows:

3-B. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, FUNDS OF THIS PROGRAM, WITHIN AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING UP TO THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS, SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 21-E OF THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed December 31, 2010.