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

7180

I N S E N A T E

May 2, 2014

Introduced by Sen. VALESKY -- 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 encouraging community-based organizations to increase opportunities for seniors to participate in community gardens

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 31-j of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 528 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The goals of the task force may include, but are not limited to, the study, evaluation and development of recommendations: (i) to encourage the establishment and expansion of community gardens by state agencies, municipal governments and private parties, (ii) to encourage cooperation between the activities and operations of community gardens and provision of donated food to local voluntary food assistance programs for the poor and disadvantaged, [and] (iii) to increase the benefits that community gardens may provide to the local community in which they are located, AND (IV) TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS, THOSE AGED SIXTY-TWO YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY GARDENS.

S 2. Paragraph e of subdivision 2 of section 31-h of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 528 of the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

e. Assist, support and encourage contact and cooperation between, and the cooperative sharing of resources between community garden groups, school garden programs and local voluntary food assistance programs, such as community food pantries, soup kitchens, SENIOR CENTERS, and other community and not-for-profit organizations that provide or distribute food to the ELDERLY, poor, and disadvantaged. Such support can include the provision of surplus community garden food or other agricultural products to such local voluntary food assistance programs; and

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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