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

7037

I N S E N A T E

April 21, 2014

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- 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 federal food safety compliance assistance

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

Section 1. Section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new subdivision 45 to read as follows:

45. ESTABLISH A FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FARMERS IN COMPLYING WITH FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY RULES. UNDER SUCH PROGRAM THE DEPARTMENT SHALL FORM PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE RESOURCES TO PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT AND SHALL ASSIST SUCH PARTNERS IN SEEKING FEDERAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR SUCH PROGRAM ASSISTANCE. THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND REFERRALS TO HELP SUCH FARMERS IN DEVELOPING OR MODIFYING FARMING, FOOD PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO IDENTIFY SOURCES OF FUNDING TO ASSIST FARMERS THAT MAY NEED TO INITIATE CAPITAL PROJECTS TO COMPLY WITH CHANGES IN FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY RULES.

S 2. 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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