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

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2015

Introduced by M. of A. TITONE, STECK, MARKEY, ZEBROWSKI, LUPINACCI, MAGNARELLI, CAHILL, BROOK-KRASNY, COLTON, MOYA, SIMANOWITZ, HEVESI, BENEDETTO, OTIS, STIRPE, BRONSON, SKARTADOS, JAFFEE -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BRENNAN, CAMARA, COOK, CROUCH, GALEF, HOOPER, RIVERA, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT requiring a study of genetically modified organisms and cross pollination, the impact on wildlife and the environment, and the effect on human consumption

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

Section 1. 1. (a) The department of agriculture and markets shall study the impacts of growing genetically modified organisms in a farm environment to ensure that genetically modified plants are safe to grow and are not cross pollinating other crops. Such study shall also include the impact of genetically modified organisms and its impact on the cost of food in New York state.

(b) The department of environmental conservation shall study the impacts of growing genetically modified organisms on the wildlife and environment of New York state.

(c) The department of health shall study the impacts of human consumption of genetically modified organisms.

2. While conducting the studies required pursuant to subdivision one of this section, the department of agriculture and markets, the department of environmental conservation, and the department of health shall utilize the federal regulatory framework of genetically modified organisms as a guide, and shall use studies which have been conducted by the federal government as well as studies conducted by New York state universities, including the state's land grant institution.

3. The studies required pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall run concurrently.

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

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4. Findings from the department of agriculture and markets, the department of environmental conservation and the department of health shall be reported concurrently to the legislature and shall include recommendations on whether foods that have been modified:

(a) should or should not be labeled;

(b) whether any bans on products or practices are warranted;

(c) whether consumer education about genetically modified organisms should take place; and

(d) who should be responsible for such education.

5. For purposes of this section "genetically modified organism" shall mean an organism produced through genetic modification that is not as a result of traditional plant breeding techniques and/or natural selection over time.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.