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

5635--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 21, 2015

Introduced by Sen. VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a small farm disaster recovery grant program

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 section 325-b to read as follows:

S 325-B. SMALL FARM DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM. 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED A SMALL FARM DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL RELIEF TO SMALL FARMS THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS.

3. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SMALL FARM SHALL ONLY INCLUDE FARMS THAT SELL PRODUCE AND HAVE ANNUAL SALES OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS OR LESS.

4. THE OWNER OF ANY SMALL FARM MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT. GRANTS AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE USED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING AND REPLANTING CROPS THAT HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY A NATURAL DISASTER.

5. THE COMMISSIONER, UPON REVIEW OF AN OWNER'S APPLICATION, SHALL DETERMINE IF THE OWNER IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE THE DETERMINATION AS TO THE AMOUNT OF GRANT THE SMALL FARM OWNER NEEDS TO REBUILD HIS OR HER CROP, PROVIDED THAT SUCH AMOUNT SHALL IN NO EVENT EXCEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

6. THIS PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE LEGISLATURE OR ANY OTHER FUNDS RECEIVED BY THE STATE FOR THE PURPOSES OF

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

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THIS SECTION. GRANTS SHALL ONLY BE AWARDED BASED UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is authorized and directed to be made on or before such effective date.