STATE OF NEW YORK

1816

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. HAWLEY, KOLB, CROUCH, OAKS, FINCH, PALMESANO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARCLAY, GIGLIO, GOODELL, McLAUGHLIN, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to funding of agricultural environmental management programs implemented in watersheds deemed critical to recreational fishing

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 151 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 375 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as follows:

§ 151. Agricultural environmental management program. There is hereby established within the department an agricultural environmental management program to assist farmers in maintaining the economic viability of their farm operations while addressing environmental impacts from those operations, including, but not limited to, soil, air and water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The program may also include assistance to farmers for the development of agriculturally-derived renewable energy sources. The program may consist of planner certification to qualify persons to prepare AEM plans; technical assistance to farmers participating in the program; financial assistance, within funds available, to soil and water conservation districts and farmers to prepare and implement plans **provided that for plans implemented in watersheds deemed critical to recreational fishing, as determined by the commissioner of environmental conservation, shall receive not less than ten percent additional financial assistance when such assistance is distributed through a matching grant program**; other incentives for program participation; and evaluation of program procedures and projects to assess effectiveness.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

LBD02311-01-7