

STATE OF NEW YORK

1152

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 6, 2017

Introduced by Sens. ORTT, GALLIVAN -- read twice and ordered printed,
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT to amend the general obligations law, in relation to the inherent
risks of operating agricultural tourism areas and participating in
activities in agricultural tourism areas

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

1 Section 1. The general obligations law is amended by adding a new
2 article 18-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 18-B

SAFETY IN AGRICULTURAL TOURISM

Section 18-301. Short title.

18-302. Definitions.

18-303. Duties of operators and visitors of agricultural tourism areas.

9 § 18-301. Short title. This article shall be known and may be cited as
10 the "safety in agricultural tourism act".

11 § 18-302. Definitions. For purposes of this article, "agricultural
12 tourism" means activities, including the production of maple sap and
13 pure maple products made therefrom, farm and winery tours, equine thera-
14 py, u-pick Christmas trees, hiking, hunting and other forms of outdoor
15 recreation offered to farm visitors, conducted by a farmer on-farm for
16 the enjoyment and/or education of the public, which primarily promote
17 the sale, marketing, production, harvesting or use of the products of
18 the farm and enhance the public's understanding and awareness of farming
19 and farm life.

20 § 18-303. Duties of operators and visitors of agricultural tourism
21 areas. 1. Operators of agricultural tourism areas shall have the follow-
22 ing additional duties:

23 a. To post and maintain way finding signage to delineate the paths,
24 areas and buildings that are open to the public;

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

LBD03372-01-7

1 b. To adequately train employees who are actively involved in agricul-
2 tural tourism activities;

3 c. To post at every point of sale or distribution of tickets, whether
4 on or off the premises of the agricultural tourism area, a conspicuous
5 "Warning to Visitors" relative to the inherent risks of participating in
6 activities on working farms and to imprint upon all tickets sold or
7 distributed, such text and graphics as the commissioner of agriculture
8 and markets shall specify, which shall conspicuously direct the atten-
9 tion of all visitors to the required "Warning to Visitors";

10 d. To post at every point of sale or distribution of tickets at an
11 agricultural tourism area a conspicuous notice to visitors that this
12 article prescribes certain duties for visitors, and to make copies of
13 this article in its entirety available without charge upon request to
14 visitors in a central location at the agricultural tourism area;

15 e. To make available written instruction or to provide education for
16 visitors relative to the risks inherent in the activities on working
17 farms and the duties prescribed for visitors by this section, and to
18 conspicuously post notice of the time and places of availability of such
19 instruction and education in locations where it is likely to be seen by
20 visitors; and

21 f. To post conspicuous notice to visitors of the right to a refund to
22 the purchaser in the amount paid in the initial sale of any tickets
23 returned to the operator of the agricultural tourism area, intact and
24 unused, upon declaration by such purchaser that he or she is unprepared
25 or unwilling to participate in the agricultural tourism activity due to
26 the risks inherent in the activities or the duties imposed upon him or
27 her by this section.

28 2. Visitors to agricultural tourism areas have the following duties to
29 enable them to make informed decisions as to the advisability of their
30 participation in agricultural tourism activities:

31 a. To comply with posted way finding signs and remain in areas desig-
32 nated for the agricultural tourism activity;

33 b. To follow any and all written information or conspicuously posted
34 rules of conduct provided by such operator to visitors; and

35 c. Not to willfully remove, deface, alter or otherwise damage signage,
36 warning devices or implements or other safety devices.

37 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.