

STATE OF NEW YORK

4021

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 2, 2017

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 establishing a young farmer agriculture advisory board

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

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new
2 section 309-a to read as follows:

3 § 309-a. Young farmer advisory board on agriculture. 1. There shall
4 be established within the department the young farmer advisory board on
5 agriculture, to advise and make recommendations to the state agencies on
6 state government plans, policies and programs affecting agriculture, as
7 outlined below, and in such areas as its experience and studies may
8 indicate to be appropriate. The department shall provide necessary
9 secretariat and support services to the board.

10 2. The young farmer advisory board on agriculture shall consist of
11 twenty members, ten to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and
12 consent of the senate and assembly, selected for their experience and
13 expertise related to areas of board responsibility. The board shall be
14 comprised of diverse members of the agriculture industry as follows:

15 (a) Of the twenty members appointed to the board:

16 (1) one shall be from the department;

17 (2) one shall be from the empire state development corporation;

18 (3) one shall be an officer of the Future Farmers of America (FFA);

19 (4) one shall be an urban farmer;

20 (5) one shall be from the New York Farm Bureau; and

21 (6) fifteen shall be from the general public appointed as follows:
22 five to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, five to
23 be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, and five to be appointed by
24 the governor.

25 (b) Each member shall:

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

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1 (1) be interested in the preservation and development of agriculture
2 and preservation of the agricultural way of life in New York;

3 (2) be under the age of forty-five years old at the beginning of the
4 member's term;

5 (3) derive at least fifty percent of the member's personal income from
6 farming or agricultural activities in the state;

7 (4) be a resident of the state; and

8 (5) be appointed for a term of three years and may serve until their
9 successors are chosen; provided, however, that of the members first
10 appointed, six shall serve for a term of one year, six shall serve for a
11 term of two years and eight shall serve for a term of three years.

12 (c) Members shall serve without salary but shall be entitled to
13 reimbursement of their ordinary and necessary travel expenses.

14 (d) The members of the board shall meet quarterly.

15 3. The duties and responsibilities of the young farmer advisory board
16 on agriculture shall include, but not be limited to:

17 (a) annually electing from its members a chairperson, a vice chair-
18 person, and a secretary of the advisory board at the advisory board's
19 first meeting of the calendar year;

20 (b) communicating to the general public, the federal government, and
21 the state government the importance of young and beginning farmers to
22 agriculture in the state;

23 (c) identify issues relating to young and beginning farmers in the
24 state and provide timely advice to the commissioner, the governor and
25 the relevant state agencies, with regard to the promotion of agriculture
26 as a career path and the economic development of young and aspiring
27 farmers;

28 (d) produce an annual report and provide such report to the governor,
29 the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on
30 or before the end of each calendar year. Such report shall identify and
31 prioritize policy issues which affect young and aspiring farmers; and

32 (e) establish committees, as necessary, to develop projects relating
33 to the aspects of life for young and beginning farmers in the state.

34 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.