

STATE OF NEW YORK

4656

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 23, 2017

Introduced by Sen. AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to establishing the plastic bag challenge grant program; and making an appropriation therefor

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

1 Section 1. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a
2 new section 27-2715 to read as follows:

3 § 27-2715. Plastic bag challenge grant program.

4 1. Establishment of program. The commissioner shall establish the
5 plastic bag challenge grant program and invite all colleges and univer-
6 sities in this state to develop a program proposal that will address the
7 environmental dangers of plastic bag use in the state by (a) providing
8 alternative after-market uses for plastic bags and/or (b) creating a
9 biodegradable material for use in the manufacture of substitutes for
10 plastic bags such that bags made of the material will not pose a threat
11 to the environment.

12 2. Eligibility. All colleges and universities, public and private,
13 located in the state are eligible to apply for and receive the plastic
14 bag challenge grant.

15 3. Proposals. Proposals must be submitted to the commissioner in a
16 procedure to be developed by the commissioner in consultation with the
17 commissioner of education.

18 4. Initial grants. (a) Upon receipt of the participant proposals the
19 commissioner shall select the ten schools that have presented the top
20 ten most feasible proposals. The ten finalists shall then each receive
21 a one hundred thousand dollar grant to advance research, development and
22 implementation of their proposal.

23 (b) The ten schools shall have nine months to complete their research
24 and submit their results for final review by the commissioner.

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

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1 5. Winning grant. The commissioner shall evaluate the results submit-
2 ted for final review by the ten finalists and shall select the institu-
3 tion which has created the most viable program. The winning college or
4 university shall be awarded a ten million dollar grant for successfully
5 completing the program.

6 6. Advertisement. The commissioner, in consultation with the commis-
7 sioner of education, shall develop and distribute educational and promo-
8 tional materials providing the details of the plastic bag challenge
9 grant program to all eligible institutions.

10 § 2. The sum of eleven million dollars, or so much thereof as may be
11 available, is hereby appropriated to the department of environmental
12 conservation from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund
13 to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated,
14 and made immediately available, for the purpose of carrying out the
15 provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and
16 warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the
17 commissioner of environmental conservation in the manner prescribed by
18 law.

19 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.