STATE OF NEW YORK

7681

IN SENATE

February 7, 2018

Introduced by Sen. HELMING -- (at request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources) -- 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 the establishment of the "Farmland for a New Generation" 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 323-a to read as follows:

§ 323-a. Farmland for a new generation. 1. The commissioner, together with American Farmland Trust, shall oversee and administer a program entitled "Farmland for a New Generation". Such program shall establish a statewide resource center for farmland transition and conservation, and a network of regional navigators to assist with farmland access and transfer throughout New York.

2. The "Farmland for a New Generation" program may include, but shall not be limited to: helping new farmers find affordable land to start an agricultural business; enabling farmers to acquire additional land for their agricultural business; assisting established farmers to find a successor for their agricultural business; aiding farmland owners in finding farmers willing to farm such farmland; supporting farm families in transferring ownership of the farmland to successors; and assisting farmers in protecting their land using conservation easements.

§ 2. Subject to appropriation, funds shall be allocated to the department of agriculture and markets for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 323-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by section one of this act, by establishing a statewide resource center in collaboration with American Farmland Trust for farmland transition and conservation. Subject to appropriation, additional funds shall be allocated to the department of agriculture and markets, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 323-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by section one of this act, by providing financial assistance for regional navigators across the state within the Cornell Cooperative Extension not-for-profit conservation organization and other organizations.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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