STATE OF NEW YORK

8274--A

IN SENATE

April 25, 2018

Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, AVELLA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Rules -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to developing a beekeeper registry program

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

Section 1. Section 169-d of the agricultural and markets law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

5. (a) Apiary industry registry. The commissioner, in cooperation with the apiary industry advisory committee, is authorized to develop a beekeeper registry program for commercial beekeepers, part-time beekeepers and hobbyist beekeepers. The purpose of such registry program shall be to maintain a census of beekeepers and beehives and provide a means of communication to and from beekeepers and bee research programs to provide for monitoring of the bee population in New York state with the goal of protecting the health and wellbeing of bees, preventing disease and maintaining the productivity of bees for pollination and honey production.

(b) Registry notification by sellers of bees and beekeeping equipment. As part of a beekeeper registry program developed pursuant to this subdivision, any person, firm, limited liability company or corporation that sells bees and beekeeping equipment to New York state residents shall be encouraged to provide information regarding the department's beekeeper registry program to New York state purchasers of such bees or beekeeping equipment, including, but not limited to, the purpose of such program and how such purchasers may voluntarily register.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.

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

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