

STATE OF NEW YORK

2480

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2017

Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to creating the dairy farm improved energy efficiency program

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that due to their remote locations at the end of the electric
3 grid infrastructure, farms are more difficult to service by electric
4 utilities. Strengthening the energy systems of individual farms and
5 developing micro-grids in remote areas will enhance the overall reli-
6 ability of the electric system. The legislature further finds that
7 assisting dairy farms with high efficiency lighting, high efficiency
8 pumping and cooling equipment, and other energy management systems, will
9 result in significant energy savings and increased milk yields. The
10 legislature hereby declares that providing low cost tools and programs
11 to farmers will help farm operations become more efficient and reduce
12 their cost of doing business. Advancing new technologies will also help
13 to accelerate the development of the energy services industry, thus
14 providing new and expanded job opportunities for New Yorkers.

15 Therefore, the legislature seeks to provide funds to encourage energy
16 efficient dairy farms through grants and low interest loans for approved
17 projects to stimulate the New York state dairy industry.

18 § 2. Section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the
19 New York state urban development corporation act, is amended by adding a
20 new section 16-aa to read as follows:

21 § 16-aa. Dairy farm improved energy efficiency program. 1. Defi-
22 nitions. For the purpose of this section:

23 (a) "Authority" shall mean the New York state energy research develop-
24 ment authority.

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

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1 (b) "Loan fund" shall refer to the dairy farm improved energy effi-
2 ciency loan fund established pursuant to this section.

3 2. (a) The corporation, with the assistance of the authority, shall
4 establish a dairy farm improved energy efficiency loan fund to provide
5 grants and low interest loans to dairy farms for energy efficiency
6 projects and advanced energy technologies.

7 (b) In order to be eligible to participate in this loan program, a
8 dairy farm must have an energy audit provided through the authority's
9 energy audit program that helps customers make informed electrical ener-
10 gy decisions and implement energy efficiency strategies.

11 3. (a) The corporation shall, within available appropriations, provide
12 financial, technical or other assistance from the loan fund to eligible
13 dairy farms.

14 (b) The corporation is authorized to provide grants and low interest
15 loans from the loan fund for eligible improvements to dairy farms. To
16 be eligible for such grants and loans, a dairy farm shall identify an
17 eligible improvement project and provide necessary documentation.

18 (c) Grants or loans provided by the corporation may be up to one
19 hundred thousand dollars.

20 4. Energy efficiency improvements eligible for grants or low interest
21 loans through the loan fund shall include, but not be limited to:

22 (a) Pre-qualified measures that are proven cost effective investments
23 which reduce energy use;

24 (b) Custom measures that pay for themselves in ten years through
25 reduced energy use;

26 (c) Process improvement measures that reduce manufacturing energy use
27 on a cost-per-unit basis; and

28 (d) Renewable technologies that use the sun, wind, anaerobic digestion
29 of animal wastes or other appropriate technologies to generate heat or
30 power.

31 5. Applications for assistance pursuant to this section shall be
32 reviewed and evaluated by the corporation in cooperation with the
33 authority pursuant to eligibility requirements and criteria set forth in
34 the rules and regulations promulgated by the corporation.

35 6. The corporation and the authority shall submit an annual written
36 report to the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the
37 senate identifying the number of dairy farms assisted through the loan
38 fund program, and the types of improvements implemented and energy cost
39 savings and any other benefits realized by the dairy farms assisted by
40 this program.

41 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.