

STATE OF NEW YORK

6112

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 11, 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 enacting the homemade business opportunity act

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "homemade business opportunity act".

3 § 2. Legislative intent. Every day, New Yorkers are using their
4 skills, talents and creativity to build home kitchen-based businesses to
5 provide unique, quality food products, increasingly sourced using local
6 ingredients for direct sale to consumers, farmers markets and other
7 retail outlets. By practicing and perfecting their products, many of
8 these craft culinary enterprises have succeeded and grown into thriving
9 and vibrant small businesses, creating jobs, supporting local economies
10 and local farmers. It is the legislature's intent that home kitchen-
11 based or "cottage food" entrepreneurs should be supported and encouraged
12 in their efforts. The homemade business opportunity act modernizes regu-
13 lations impacting these enterprises and reduces artificial barriers to
14 business growth, and expands potential markets and products that can be
15 offered for direct and indirect sales to consumers, while recognizing
16 the state's legitimate interest in preserving food product safety and
17 public health.

18 § 3. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new
19 section 16-b to read as follows:

20 § 16-b. Homemade business opportunities. The commissioner shall
21 promulgate rules and regulations to execute and carry into effect the
22 following:

23 1. An expansion of the types of foods that can be home-processed and
24 offered for sale to include the following:

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

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1 (a) raw nuts and nut mixes, provided, however that such nuts are
2 purchased from a commercial source that meets all standards set forth in
3 this chapter;

4 (b) chocolate;

5 (c) baked goods prepared with fruits and vegetables;

6 (d) cereals;

7 (e) granola;

8 (f) trail mixes;

9 (g) dried garden vegetables;

10 (h) dried soup mixes;

11 (i) dried fruits;

12 (j) honey;

13 (k) seasoning salts;

14 (l) dry baking mixes; and

15 (m) dried pasta;

16 2. No limits on the number of ingredients included in any home-pro-
17 cessed item;

18 3. Standards that allow producers to safely process pickles and other
19 products including oils and flavored vinegars;

20 4. Continual input from stakeholders in an effort to maximize home-
21 processed food opportunities while also ensuring public safety;

22 5. An annual review and update of all approved home-processed food
23 items;

24 6. A mechanism by which producers can petition for the authorization
25 of new approved home-processed food items;

26 7. An annually updated list of approved commercial kitchens that are
27 accessible to home-processed food producers, including information about
28 fees and other requirements;

29 8. Approved home-processed product venues and methods of sale:

30 (a) wholesale markets;

31 (b) retail agricultural venues such as farms, farm stands, farmers
32 markets, green markets, craft fairs and flea markets;

33 (c) producers' homes, subject to local zoning restrictions;

34 (d) community-supported agriculture entities;

35 (e) direct internet sales within New York state; provided that sales
36 equaling fifty thousand dollars or more per year shall trigger addi-
37 tional inspection and permit requirements under article twenty-c of this
38 chapter, however all licensing fees shall be waived for farm-based
39 producers; and

40 (f) indirect sales to restaurants, retailers and grocers; provided
41 that sales equaling fifty thousand dollars or more per year shall trig-
42 ger additional inspection and permit requirements under article twenty-c
43 of this chapter, however all licensing fees shall be waived for farm-
44 based producers; and

45 9. In conjunction with the commissioner of the department of health,
46 standardized training for local health and food safety agencies to
47 ensure consistent enforcement and guidance for home-processed product
48 producers.

49 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.