STATE OF NEW YORK

7198

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 3, 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 Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the soil and water conservation districts law, in relation to the manner state aid is distributed to districts for the conservation of soil and water resources

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 of section 11-a of the soil and water conservation districts law, as amended by section 2 of part U1 of chapter 109 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Within amounts available, provide financial assistance to each soil and water conservation district, in addition to the amounts provided under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, for the purposes of carrying out projects for the conservation of the soil and water resources of this state, and for the improvement of water quality, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water, and thereby to preserve natural resources, control and abate nonpoint sources of water pollution, assist in the control of floods, assist in the drainage and irrigation of agricultural lands, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state. Any funds made available pursuant to this paragraph shall be available for financial assistance for the purposes of carrying out such activities to each soil and water conservation district [~~on a competitive basis~~] pursuant to performance standards to be established by the soil and water conservation committee and the commissioner of the department of agriculture and markets. Such standards shall include, but not be limited to, the extent and sufficiency of district board activity; district reporting and outreach activities;

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

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delivery of state natural resource conservation programs; and the ability of the district to use such funding to leverage additional funds from local, federal and private sources.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.