

STATE OF NEW YORK

1624

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 16, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. GOTTFRIED, EPSTEIN, WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring public schools to offer plant-based food options in food service

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

1 Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 915-a
2 to read as follows:

3 § 915-a. Plant-based food options. 1. Upon request by a student or
4 person in parental relation to the student, every public school shall
5 offer the student a plant-based food option as an alternative to every
6 meal or snack offered in food service to the student. All the public
7 school's written material describing food offerings shall include the
8 availability of a plant-based food option. The plant-based food option
9 shall be offered at no additional cost to the student beyond what would
10 be charged for a comparable non-plant-based food option.

11 2. The school shall respond in a reasonable manner and time to any
12 request made under this section, consistent with guidance by school
13 authorities. The request shall be effective for every school meal or
14 snack in which the student is reasonably expected to participate. This
15 section does not preclude the offering of plant-based food options to
16 students who have not requested it, and does not preclude an individual
17 who has requested a plant-based food option from selecting a non-plant-
18 based food option.

19 3. As used in this section:

20 (a) "Plant-based food option" means food or beverages that are free of
21 animal products and, as relates to the "protein" portion of a meal,
22 recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture as a meat
23 alternate for purposes of the national school lunch program.

24 (b) "Animal product" means meat, poultry, seafood, dairy, eggs, honey,
25 and any derivative thereof.

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

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1 4. In implementing this section, the school and school authorities
2 shall consult with the school district nutrition advisory committee
3 under section nine hundred eighteen of this article, where applicable.

4 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to public
5 school food service beginning with the school year, as defined in the
6 education law, beginning one year after it shall have become a law.