STATE OF NEW YORK

2178

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 23, 2019

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing a healthy savings pilot program

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

Section 1. Article 2 of the public health law is amended by adding a new title 7 to read as follows:

TITLE VII

HEALTHY SAVINGS PILOT PROGRAM

Section 268. Healthy savings pilot program.

§ 268. Healthy savings pilot program. 1. There shall be established in the department, by the commissioner, a healthy savings pilot program designed to reduce food insecurity and health inequity through the use of discounts on healthier food choices at grocery stores and supermarkets.

2. The department shall, through its own means or by partnering with a company which implements healthy savings initiatives, create a pilot program which meets the following specifications:

(a) at least one million people shall have access to the program across the program;

(b) the program shall have a companion phone application and website for showing which healthy food items are being offered at a discount at that time and where they can be purchased;

(c) discount cards shall be issued to those who apply for the program which facilitate the purchase of healthy food items at a discount;

(d) discounts in participating grocery stores and supermarkets shall be on at least the healthiest quarter of items sold in such location as determined by the commissioner; and

(e) the program shall be implemented in sections of three cities where food insecurity and health inequity are a health issue.

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

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3. The department shall pursue available funding and cost reduction options and make efforts to establish a public-private partnership with grocery stores, supermarkets, and organizations that promote healthy food choices.

4. The department shall be responsible for monitoring the quality, appropriateness and effectiveness of the program and shall report to the legislature within one year of the effective date of this section, and each year on January first of each year thereafter, on the program's effectiveness.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.