

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:

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

TITLE VII

HEALTHY SAVINGS PILOT PROGRAM

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5 Section 268. Healthy savings pilot program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (e) the program shall be implemented in sections of three cities where
25 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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1 3. The department shall pursue available funding and cost reduction
2 options and make efforts to establish a public-private partnership with
3 grocery stores, supermarkets, and organizations that promote healthy
4 food choices.

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

10 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.