STATE OF NEW YORK

2797

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 29, 2019

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, KENNEDY, MONTGOMERY -- 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 annual reporting requirements for farmers markets

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 263 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by chapter 524 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

1. The commissioner shall quinquennially report to the governor and the legislature on or before January first, two thousand seven and on or before January first of each fifth year thereafter on the status of the state farmers' markets program, as provided under this article. Such report shall include:

(a) the number, nature and geographic locations of farmers markets in the state of New York;

[~~(a)~~] **(b)** the number and nature of proposals made to the department for state assistance;

[~~(b)~~] **(c)** the number, nature and geographic location of approved farmers' markets development or improvement projects, and the amounts of each award made thereto;

[~~(c)~~] **(d)** an assessment of the effectiveness of existing farmers' markets to facilitate New York producers to direct market their farm and food products to retail and wholesale consumers; [~~and~~]

(e) the number, nature and geographic location of food deserts in the state of New York; such assessment shall provide detailed demographic information, the number and descriptions of the food sources in food deserts, and any other information the commissioner deems appropriate for an assessment of food deserts;

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

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(f) an assessment of the successes, failures and barriers in establishing farmers markets in food deserts and recommendations for overcoming the failures and barriers in establishing farmers markets in food deserts;

(g) a list of the funding sources available for expanding farmers markets into food deserts; and

[~~(d)~~](h) any recommendations for [~~program~~] improvement **of the farmers' markets program**.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.