STATE OF NEW YORK

4802

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 26, 2019

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to requiring the commissioner of agriculture and markets to identify and develop standards for therapy dogs

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

Section 1. Section 124 of the agriculture and markets law, as amended by section 22 of part T of chapter 59 of the laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

§ 124. Powers of commissioner. The commissioner is hereby authorized to:

1. (a) promulgate, after public hearing, such rules and regulations as are necessary to supplement and give full effect to the provisions of sections one hundred thirteen, one hundred fourteen and one hundred seventeen of this article; and

(b) exercise all other powers and functions as are necessary to carry out the duties and purposes set forth in sections one hundred thirteen, one hundred fourteen and one hundred seventeen of this article.

2. in cooperation with other relevant state agencies and stakeholders identify, and develop as necessary, guidance for therapy dogs, their handlers and facilities using such dogs, including, but not limited to, assessment and training, risk management, animal welfare, and best practices for such dogs and their dog-handlers. Such guidance shall be made available on the department's website and provided to municipalities that issue special tags for therapy dogs pursuant to section one hundred eleven of this article.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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