

STATE OF NEW YORK

8561

IN SENATE

June 16, 2020

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

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a New York food supply working group

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

1 Section 1. Section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by
2 adding a new subdivision 51 to read as follows:

3 51. (a) Establish, in coordination with the commissioner of economic
4 development, a New York food supply working group to provide advice,
5 guidance, and recommendations on improving the resiliency and self-reli-
6 ance of the state's farm and food supply and the related supply chain
7 logistics to address food shortages, food waste, and the inability to
8 get New York farm goods to markets that occurred as a result of the
9 covid-19 pandemic, with the goal of creating permanent solutions beyond
10 the state of emergency to reflect the changing wholesale, retail and
11 consumer marketplace.

12 (b) The commissioners shall work with relevant stakeholders which
13 shall include, but not be limited to, representatives, including small
14 and family-owned businesses, of:

15 (i) farmers;

16 (ii) food processors including, but not limited to, dairy, produce,
17 meat, and beverage processors;

18 (iii) retail food businesses including, but not limited to, retail
19 food stores and direct farm-to-consumer businesses;

20 (iv) the food service industry including, but not limited to, restau-
21 rants and institutional foodservice;

22 (v) food wholesalers and distributors;

23 (vi) food transporters including, but not limited to, direct-to-con-
24 sumer transporters serving retail food stores, foodservice, and farmers;

25 (vii) labor organizations and workers from the farm and food industry;

26 (viii) emergency food providers including, but not limited to, food-
27 banks;

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

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1 (ix) academic experts in food production, marketing, distribution,
2 food safety, and consumers;

3 (x) federal agencies with responsibility for food production, process-
4 ing, marketing, and safety; and

5 (xi) any other representatives of agriculture, the food industry,
6 economic development, or any other state agencies the commissioners of
7 agriculture and markets and of economic development deem necessary.

8 (c) The working group shall convene on or before May first, two thou-
9 sand twenty-one, for the purpose of roundtable meetings which may be
10 held in different regions of the state. The agenda and meeting informa-
11 tion shall be made available to the public in advance and all such meet-
12 ings shall be open to, or accessible to, the public. Such meetings may
13 include, among other things, consideration of the following issues,
14 especially as they relate to state or federal emergencies:

15 (i) the need to strengthen the resiliency and self-reliance of the
16 state's farm and food supply and related supply chain logistics, to
17 prevent food shortages and food waste, and to overcome hurdles involved
18 in getting agricultural products to markets and consumers; and

19 (ii) the need for changes to, and development of, new state and feder-
20 al laws, rules, policies, and programs to address, and provide incen-
21 tives for, the goal of strengthening and improving the state food supply
22 in a manner that benefits New York farms, businesses, workers, and
23 consumers.

24 (d) The working group shall provide a written report of its findings
25 identifying any proposed recommendations and guidance to the governor,
26 the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate
27 on or before December first, two thousand twenty-one, and shall publish
28 such report on the department's website.

29 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.