

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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4526

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2021

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Introduced by M. of A. COOK, AUBRY, GLICK, DICKENS, GOTTFRIED, SAYEGH, JOYNER, TAYLOR, PICHARDO, SIMON, RODRIGUEZ, WILLIAMS, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, NIOU -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON, GRIFFIN, J. RIVERA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to creating a food security, empowerment and economic development program

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

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds there is a need  
2 for community economic development to improve the food system in areas  
3 where there is an inadequate food supply and many residents who rely on  
4 fluctuating government and private food assistance. There is a need to  
5 develop food resources and businesses in these communities that provide  
6 higher quality, more accessible food. The legislature also finds that  
7 local farmers and food producers can and should benefit from these  
8 efforts.  
9 The legislature further finds that as the federal government and New  
10 York state attempt to reduce dependency on government, there is a need  
11 to support families leaving public assistance for work. One approach to  
12 increasing work opportunities and addressing the food needs in these  
13 communities is through the development of "community food security",  
14 which is defined as people successfully obtaining an acceptable, nutri-  
15 tious diet using local non-emergency sources.  
16 Community food security projects are designed to meet the food needs  
17 of low income people, increase the self-reliance of communities in  
18 providing for their own food needs, and promote comprehensive responses  
19 to local food, farm and nutrition issues. For example, these projects  
20 provide training in urban gardening and sales, assist entrepreneurs  
21 starting micro-enterprises, support farmers' markets in distressed  
22 neighborhoods and provide food-based educational opportunities for  
23 schools.

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

LBD07673-01-1

1 The legislature supports the goals of self-reliance, community-based  
2 economic development, profitable local agriculture, improved nutrition  
3 and helping families and individuals help themselves. Therefore, the  
4 legislature finds that the creation of a community food security program  
5 for New York state will benefit struggling working families and their  
6 communities, provide new markets for family farmers, create food-based  
7 jobs and small businesses, and ensure healthier citizens and neighbor-  
8 hoods.

9 § 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 27-FF to  
10 read as follows:

11 ARTICLE 27-FF  
12 COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY,  
13 EMPOWERMENT AND  
14 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

15 Section 2790. Community food security, empowerment and economic develop-  
16 ment program.

17 2791. Grants to organizations.

18 2792. Advisory council.

19 § 2790. Community food security, empowerment and economic development  
20 program. The community food security, empowerment and economic develop-  
21 ment program is established within the department. Such program is  
22 established to support the development of community food projects  
23 designed to meet the food needs of low-income people, increase the self-  
24 reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs and  
25 promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition  
26 issues. These projects will attempt to: increase the availability, in  
27 the targeted communities, of culturally acceptable, affordable, nutri-  
28 tionally adequate food, from local sources whenever possible; develop  
29 linkages between local farmers and communities served by the project;  
30 support job development and job training, including work experience  
31 required by welfare reform; support the development of entrepreneurial  
32 enterprises; promote good nutrition; encourage long-term planning and  
33 multi-agency involvement in the project; and, include community resi-  
34 dents in decision-making.

35 § 2791. Grants to organizations. The commissioner shall make grants  
36 for program projects, subject to the availability of funding, to commu-  
37 nity-based nonprofit organizations and local governments. In order to  
38 meet the goals of the program, applicants may create partnerships with  
39 other entities, including limited participation by for-profit enter-  
40 prises.

41 Preference for these grants shall be given to projects located in  
42 communities with a significant percentage of the population participat-  
43 ing in government and private food assistance programs.

44 Projects funded by these grants shall be designed to become self-sus-  
45 taining, not dependent on continual grants from this program.

46 § 2792. Advisory council. An advisory council shall be established to  
47 assist the commissioner in the development of the grant program and in  
48 reviewing applications for such grants. The council shall be composed of  
49 twelve members with expertise in community food security. Six members  
50 shall be appointed by the governor, two members shall be appointed by  
51 the temporary president of the senate, two members shall be appointed by  
52 the speaker of the assembly, one member shall be appointed by the minor-  
53 ity leader of the senate and one member shall be appointed by the minor-  
54 ity leader of the assembly. These members shall serve at the will of the  
55 appointing authority. The commissioners of the office of temporary and

1 disability assistance, agriculture and markets and economic development  
2 or their designees shall also participate in the advisory council.  
3 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-  
4 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.