STATE OF NEW YORK

1305

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 11, 2021

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

AN ACT in relation to directing the commissioner of agriculture and markets to work with the state's land grant university system to produce a report to provide recommendations on the state's farm and food supply; and to repeal certain provisions of the agriculture and markets law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Subdivision 51 of section 16 of the agriculture and markets law, as added by a chapter of the laws of 2020 amending the agriculture and markets law relating to establishing a New York food supply working group, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8561-A and A. 10607-A, is REPEALED.

§ 2. (a) The commissioner of agriculture and markets, in coordination with the commissioner of economic development, shall work with the state's land grant university system to produce a report to provide advice, guidance, and recommendations on improving the resiliency and self-reliance of the state's farm and food supply and the related supply chain logistics to address food shortages, food waste, and the inability to get New York farm goods to markets that occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of creating permanent solutions beyond the state of emergency to reflect the changing wholesale, retail and consumer marketplace.

(b) The commissioners shall solicit the input of representatives of the entire food supply chain from different regions of the state, including women, minority, small, and family-owned businesses and farms, of:

(i) farmers, organic and conventional;

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

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

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

(iv) the food service industry including, but not limited to, restaurants and institutional foodservice;

(v) food wholesalers and distributors;

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

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

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

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

(x) local, state and federal agencies with responsibility for food production, processing, marketing, and safety; and

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

(c) The commissioners shall hold on or before May first, two thousand twenty-one, a roundtable meeting of the representatives consulted under subdivision (b) of this section and may hold such additional roundtable meetings as deemed necessary. The agenda and meeting information shall be made available to the public in advance and such meeting shall be open to, or accessible to, the public. Such meeting may include, among other things, consideration of the following issues, especially as they relate to state or federal emergencies:

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

(ii) the need for changes to, and development of, new state and federal laws, rules, policies, and programs to address, and provide incentives for, the goal of strengthening and improving the state food supply in a manner that benefits New York farms, food businesses, workers, retailers, restauranteurs, food banks, and consumers.

(d) The commissioners shall provide a written report of the findings identifying any proposed recommendations, feasibility and costs associated with such recommendations, and guidance to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and the temporary president of the senate on or before December first, two thousand twenty-one, and shall publish such report on the department of agriculture and market's website.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2020 relating to establishing a New York food supply working group, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 8561-A and A. 10607-A, takes effect.