

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2611

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 22, 2021

Introduced by Sen. HELMING -- 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 the establishment of the "Farmland for a New Generation" program

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

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 323-a to read as follows:

3 § 323-a. Farmland for a new generation. 1. The commissioner, together  
4 with American Farmland Trust, shall oversee and administer a program  
5 entitled "Farmland for a New Generation". Such program shall establish a  
6 statewide resource center for farmland transition and conservation, and  
7 a network of regional navigators to assist with farmland access and  
8 transfer throughout New York.

9 2. The "Farmland for a New Generation" program may include, but shall  
10 not be limited to: helping new farmers find affordable land to start an  
11 agricultural business; enabling farmers to acquire additional land for  
12 their agricultural business; assisting established farmers to find a  
13 successor for their agricultural business; aiding farmland owners in  
14 finding farmers willing to farm such farmland; supporting farm families  
15 in transferring ownership of the farmland to successors; and assisting  
16 farmers in protecting their land using conservation easements.

17 § 2. Subject to appropriation, funds shall be allocated to the depart-  
18 ment of agriculture and markets for the purpose of carrying out the  
19 provisions of section 323-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added  
20 by section one of this act, by establishing a statewide resource center  
21 in collaboration with American Farmland Trust for farmland transition  
22 and conservation. Subject to appropriation, additional funds shall be  
23 allocated to the department of agriculture and markets, for the purpose  
24 of carrying out the provisions of section 323-a of the agriculture and  
25 markets law, as added by section one of this act, by providing financial

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

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1 assistance for regional navigators across the state within the Cornell  
2 Cooperative Extension not-for-profit conservation organization and other  
3 organizations.  
4 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.