

STATE OF NEW YORK

4892

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 17, 2021

Introduced by Sens. HINCHEY, BORRELLO -- 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
Nourish New York program

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

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new
2 article 27 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 27

NOURISH NEW YORK

Section 450. Declaration of legislative findings and intent.

451. Definitions.

452. Nourish New York program.

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8 § 450. Declaration of legislative findings and intent. While the Nour-
9 ish New York program was developed in response to disrupted food supply
10 chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has emerged as an important
11 innovation, significantly supporting the state's farms while providing
12 nourishing fresh foods to people experiencing food insecurity. The
13 COVID-19 crisis unveiled the weaknesses in our state's food supply
14 system and has caused serious economic hardships for the state's farms
15 and agribusinesses. But, in the ten months since its inception, Nourish
16 New York has already strengthened the state's food supply network and
17 expanded markets for New York farm products. The local food movement has
18 also gained significant momentum during the pandemic, with increasing
19 numbers of New Yorkers wanting to know where their food is sourced.
20 This presents the state with a major opportunity to support our local
21 economies and create greater equity in our food system by providing
22 greater access to local, healthy options in food insecure areas through
23 making the Nourish New York program permanent.

24 § 451. Definitions. 1. "Food relief organization" means a religious
25 organization or other not-for-profit that provides food for free to

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

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1 persons experiencing food insecurity, including but not limited to a
2 food pantry, food bank, or soup kitchen or community-based organization
3 that provides food for free to persons experiencing food insecurity.

4 2. "Surplus agricultural products" means consumable or edible agricul-
5 tural products grown in New York but shall not include condiments,
6 sweeteners or beverages containing alcohol.

7 § 452. Nourish New York program. 1. The commissioner shall, to the
8 extent permitted by state or federal appropriations for such purpose,
9 facilitate programming that ensures surplus agricultural products are
10 provided to food relief organizations at competitive wholesale prices.

11 2. The commissioner shall provide technical assistance and information
12 about the program to food relief organizations, producers of surplus
13 agricultural products and the public, including, but not limited to,
14 information posted on the department's website.

15 3. The commissioner shall provide means, which may include posting on
16 the department's website, for producers to make available surplus agri-
17 cultural products and for food relief organizations to access surplus
18 agricultural products.

19 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.