

STATE OF NEW YORK

10341

IN ASSEMBLY

May 13, 2022

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Tague) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to estab-
lishing a veterans in agriculture assistance and outreach 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 section 29 to read as follows:

3 § 29. Veterans in agriculture assistance and outreach program. 1. As
4 used in this section, the following terms shall have the following mean-
5 ings:

6 (a) "Veteran" means a person who served on active duty in the
7 uniformed services of the United States, or in the army national guard,
8 air national guard, or service as a commissioned officer in the public
9 health service, commissioned officer of the national oceanic and atmo-
10 spheric administration or environmental sciences services adminis-
11 tration, cadet at a United States armed forces service academy, and who
12 has been released from such service under other than dishonorable condi-
13 tions.

14 (b) "Qualified veteran business entity" means a business enterprise,
15 including a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company
16 or corporation that is:

17 (i) at least fifty-one percent owned by one or more veterans;

18 (ii) an enterprise in which such veteran ownership is real, substan-
19 tial, and continuing;

20 (iii) an enterprise in which such veteran ownership has and exercises
21 the authority to control independently the day-to-day business decisions
22 of the enterprise; and

23 (iv) an enterprise authorized to do business in this state and is
24 independently-owned and operated.

25 2. The department, shall establish a program to help integrate veter-
26 ans into the field of agriculture, and support veterans currently work-
27 ing in agriculture.

28 3. Such program shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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1 (a) Recruiting and providing training for veterans to facilitate entry
2 into the field of agriculture, in consultation with the department of
3 veterans' services, the division of military and naval affairs and the
4 United States department of agriculture.

5 (b) Identifying and making assistance available to formerly incarcer-
6 ated veterans to facilitate entry into the field of agriculture, in
7 consultation with the department of corrections and community super-
8 vision.

9 (c) Providing assistance to veterans in rural and urban communities by
10 providing employment, mentorship, and outreach opportunities.

11 (d) Facilitating educational opportunities through Cornell University
12 and the state university of New York.

13 (e) Connecting between veterans and applicable local, state and feder-
14 al resources.

15 (f) Creating a website relating to provide veterans information on and
16 easy access to program resources.

17 (g) Promoting participation by veterans and qualified business enti-
18 ties, including but not limited to the conduct of outreach and education
19 efforts to encourage and facilitate participation.

20 (h) Coordinating with military, government, or private sector market-
21 ing efforts that already identify, emphasize, and encourage the
22 production and marketing of New York produced agricultural commodities
23 by veterans and qualified business entities.

24 (i) Partnering with the office of mental health, the department of
25 health and NY FarmNet to develop a specialized mental health and suicide
26 prevention program for veterans in agriculture.

27 (j) Training and support opportunities as well as resources to connect
28 veterans and their products with local retailers.

29 (k) Establishing mentorships for veterans with farming endeavors.

30 (l) Providing assistance to veterans to apply for available grant
31 funding.

32 (m) Within funding made available for such purposes, conducting an
33 assessment of properties and making such property available for an
34 affordable lease program for veterans.

35 (n) Working with veterans and property owners to ensure veterans who
36 want to farm have a place to do so.

37 (o) Identifying current New York Grown and Certified program partic-
38 ipants who qualify to use the logotype developed pursuant to the
39 provisions of subdivision four of this section and encourage application
40 for the use of such logotype.

41 (p) Establishing a special veterans' category in New York Grown and
42 Certified database of products.

43 (q) Reporting on the feasibility of developing rehabilitation sites to
44 assist wounded and disabled veterans to readjust and heal to address
45 post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury issues through
46 agriculture therapy programs.

47 (r) Creating and building a brand for farmer-veterans' products.

48 (s) Development of a veteran agriculture logotype pursuant to the
49 provisions of subdivision four of this section.

50 4. (a) The department, in consultation with the empire state develop-
51 ment corporation, shall design a logotype that clearly identifies a
52 product as both meeting existing New York State Grown and Certified
53 standards pursuant to 1 NYCRR 160.3 and being produced by a veteran or
54 qualified veteran business entity. The department shall incorporate the
55 New York State Grown and Certified Seal, and may partner with organiza-
56 tions, including but not limited to, the Farmer Veteran Coalition Homeg-

1 rown by Heroes program and similar programs intended to encourage veter-
2 ans to farm or to otherwise benefit farmers who are veterans, if the
3 department elects to adopt such organizations' separate and unique
4 eligibility criteria.

5 (b) Such logotype shall be made available to veterans or qualified
6 veteran business entities for descriptive labels, packaging or adver-
7 tisement information at no cost.

8 (c) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to provide
9 for civil penalties and injunctive relief for improper use of the logo-
10 type designed pursuant to this subdivision.

11 5. The department shall make the program developed pursuant to this
12 section available to:

13 (a) veterans;

14 (b) persons who served on active duty in the uniformed services of the
15 United States, or in the army national guard, air national guard, or
16 service as a commissioned officer in the public health service, commis-
17 sioned officer of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or
18 environmental sciences services administration, cadet at a United States
19 armed forces service academy, and who has been released from such
20 service under other a condition other than honorable on a case-by-case
21 basis following review and approval by the department;

22 (c) immediate family members of a veteran killed while serving on
23 active duty, a prisoner of war, or died from a service-related injury or
24 exposure, where such immediate family member is licensed under the New
25 York State Grown and Certified standards pursuant to 1 NYCRR 160.3; and

26 (d) qualified veteran business entities.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
28 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-
29 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-
30 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
31 completed on or before such effective date.