STATE OF NEW YORK

2447

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. FAHY, SIMON, COOK, EPSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the paper carryout bag reduction fee

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

Section 1. Subdivision 7 of section 27-2805 of the environmental conservation law, as added by section 2 of part H of chapter 58 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

7. All paper carryout bag reduction fee monies and any related penalties and interest remitted to the commissioner of taxation and finance under this section, except as hereinafter provided, shall be deposited daily with such responsible banks, banking houses, or trust companies as may be designated by the state comptroller. Of the revenues deposited, the comptroller shall retain in the comptroller's hands such amount as the commissioner of taxation and finance may determine to be necessary for refunds or reimbursements of the fees collected or received pursuant to this section, out of which the comptroller shall pay any refunds or reimbursements of such fees to which persons shall be entitled under the provisions of this section. The comptroller, after reserving such refund and reimbursement fund shall**: (a) for the first year following the effective date of a local law, ordinance or resolution imposing a paper carryout bag reduction fee adopted pursuant to subdivision one of this section by a county or city**, on or before the twelfth day of each month, pay to the appropriate fiscal officers of the counties or cities imposing tax under subdivision one of this section an amount equal to forty percent of the paper carryout bag reduction fee monies and any related penalties and interest collected by the commissioner of taxation and finance in respect of each such county or city in the preceding calendar month to be used for the purpose of purchasing and distributing reusable bags, with priority given to low- and fixed-income communities**; and (b)**

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

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after the first year following the effective date of a local law, ordinance or resolution imposing a paper carryout bag reduction fee adopted pursuant to subdivision one of this section by a county or city, on or before the twelfth day of each month, pay to each person located in such county or city and required to collect the paper carryout bag reduction fee an amount equal to forty percent of the paper carryout bag reduction fee monies collected by such person. Provided further that at the end of each fiscal year, any funds which have not been used for the purpose defined in this section shall be returned to the comptroller and be deposited into the general fund to be used for the purpose of purchasing and distributing reusable bags with priority given to low- and fixed-income communities. Any remaining amount of paper carryout bag reduction fee monies and any related penalties and interest shall be deposited monthly into the environmental protection fund established pursuant to section ninety-two-s of the state finance law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.