STATE OF NEW YORK

7106

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 22, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to requiring the department of agriculture and markets to facilitate and expand an initiative to promote opportunities for farm ownership to farmers who are black, indigenous and people of color

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

Section 1. Legislative intent and findings. The legislature finds that black, indigenous and people of color farmers make up approximately 2.1% of all farmers in New York state. Using data from the 2017 census, that means that only 1,228 out of 57,865 farmers were black, indigenous, and people of color. It is the intent of the legislature to diversify the profession of farming within the state and to encourage black, indigenous, and people of color to pursue farm ownership.

§ 2. Section 16 of the agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new subdivision 52 to read as follows:

52. Facilitate and expand, with financial and technical support, an initiative to promote opportunities for farm ownership to farmers who are black, indigenous and people of color. The department shall promote a consistent demand of products and services from farmers who are black, indigenous, and people of color and re-establish opportunities for farm ownership for such farmers. A report shall be provided annually to the governor and the legislature detailing information including, but not limited to, the type of initiatives undertaken, the funding distributed by region, the percentage of farms owned by farmers who are black, indigenous, and people of color by region, and the various products distributed to and from each region.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

LBD09865-01-1