STATE OF NEW YORK

9545

IN ASSEMBLY

March 16, 2022

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

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing the New York state meat processing grant expansion programs; and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new section 96-k to read as follows:

§ 96-k. New York state meat processing expansion grant program. 1. There is hereby established within the department a New York state meat processing expansion grant program. The program shall be established by the department, in consultation with the empire state development corporation. The purpose of the program shall be to provide grants to encourage the expansion of meat processing enterprises throughout the state, with an emphasis on the establishment of more processing plants that are certified by the United States department of agriculture.

2. The department shall establish program requirements and create an application form for the program within sixty days of the effective date of this section. Such program requirements shall include, but need not be limited to;

(a) Proposals for grants shall be for no less than fifty thousand dollars and shall be used for the expansion of existing plants, creation of new plants, job training, safety upgrades, or other purpose deemed necessary to further opportunities for beef, pork and other meat farmers to process their meat within the state; and

(b) Funds allocated to the department for the grant program shall be divided among each regional economic development council region that is able to disperse five hundred thousand dollars each to one or multiple entities who can prove need for one-time capital funding to increase meat processing capabilities within the state.

3. The department shall promote the program throughout the state.

4. Grant program funds shall be allocated within one year of the effective date of this section.

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

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§ 2. The sum of five million dollars ($5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be available, is hereby appropriated to the department of agriculture and markets from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purposes of establishing the New York state meat processing expansion grant program. Such moneys shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of agriculture and markets in the manner prescribed by law.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.