STATE OF NEW YORK

9248

IN SENATE

May 7, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- (at request of the Department of Agriculture and Markets) -- 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 beginning farmer advisory board on agriculture

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

Section 1. Section 309-a of the agriculture and markets law, as added by chapter 129 of the laws of 2017, is amended to read as follows:

§ 309-a. [~~Young~~] **Beginning** farmer advisory board on agriculture. 1. There shall be established within the department the [~~young~~] **beginning** farmer advisory board on agriculture, to advise and make recommendations to the state agencies on state government plans, policies and programs affecting agriculture, as outlined below, and in such areas as its experience and studies may indicate to be appropriate. [~~The department shall provide necessary secretariat and support services to the board.~~]

2. The [~~young~~] **beginning** farmer advisory board on agriculture shall consist of [~~twenty~~] **twenty-five** members[~~, ten to be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate and assembly,~~] selected for their experience and expertise related to areas of board responsibility[~~. The board shall be~~] **and** comprised of diverse members of the agriculture industry**, including the commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, with the remaining members selected** as follows:

(a) [~~Of~~] **The commissioner shall appoint** the [~~twenty~~] **following eleven board** members [~~appointed to the board~~]:

(1) one [~~shall be~~] **representative** from the [~~department;~~

~~(2) one shall be from the~~] empire state development corporation;

[~~(3)~~] **(2)** one [~~shall be an~~] officer of the Future Farmers of America (FFA);

[~~(4)~~] **(3) one representative from the department of labor;**

(4) one [~~shall be an~~] urban farmer;

(5) one [~~shall be~~] **representative** from the New York Farm Bureau;[~~ and~~

~~(6) fifteen shall be from the general public appointed as follows: five to be appointed by the temporary president of the senate, five to~~

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

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~~be appointed by the speaker of the assembly, and five to be appointed by the governor.~~]

(6) one participant from the Cornell small farms program;

(7) one representative from the United States department of agriculture;

(8) one organic farmer;

(9) one veteran farmer;

(10) one representative from the Young Farmers coalition;

(11) one member of a group identified in the most recent United States department of agriculture census of agriculture that is currently underrepresented in farm ownership; and

(b) The remaining thirteen board members shall be from entry level farmers or novice farmers, agriculture service providers, financial and legal service providers to farm operators, Cornell Cooperative Extension representatives, advocacy organization representatives, academics, agricultural leaders, and/or others who can contribute to the work of the advisory board on issues, including, among others: access to land and capital, grants, business planning, farm processes and government programs selected as follows: seven appointed by the commissioner; two appointed by the temporary president of the senate; two appointed by the speaker of the assembly; one appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and one appointed by the minority leader of the assembly.

[~~(b)~~](c) Each member shall:

(1) be interested in the preservation and development of agriculture and preservation of the agricultural way of life in New York;

(2) be [~~under the age of forty-five years old at the beginning of the member's term~~] actively involved in farming, agricultural activities, agricultural research and/or providing services to the agricultural community in the state;

(3) [~~derive at least fifty percent of the member's personal income from farming or agricultural activities in the state;~~

~~(4)~~] be a resident of the state; and

[~~(5)~~] (4) be appointed for a term of three years and may serve until their successors are chosen; provided, however, that of the members first appointed, [~~six~~] eight shall serve for a term of one year, [~~six~~] eight shall serve for a term of two years and [~~eight~~] nine shall serve for a term of three years.

[~~(c)~~] (d) Members shall serve without salary but shall be entitled to reimbursement of their ordinary and necessary travel expenses.

[~~(d)~~] (e) The members of the board shall meet [~~quarterly~~] twice a year.

(f) The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall chair the board and the department shall provide the necessary secretariat and support services to the board.

3. The duties and responsibilities of the [~~young~~] beginning farmer advisory board on agriculture shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) [~~annually electing from its members a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and a secretary of the advisory board at the advisory board's first meeting of the calendar year;~~

~~(b)~~] communicating to the [~~general~~] public, the federal government, and the state government the importance of [~~young and~~] beginning farmers to agriculture in the state;

[~~(c) identify~~] (b) identifying issues relating to [~~young and~~] beginning farmers in the state and provide timely advice to the commissioner, the governor and the relevant state agencies, with regard to the

promotion of agriculture as a career path and the economic development of [~~young and aspiring~~] **beginning** farmers;

[~~(d) produce an annual~~] **(c) producing a biennial** report and provide such report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly on or before the end of each calendar year. Such report shall identify and prioritize policy issues which affect [~~young and aspiring~~] **beginning** farmers; and

[~~(e) establish~~] **(d) establishing** committees, as necessary, to develop projects relating to the aspects of life for [~~young and~~] beginning farmers in the state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.