STATE OF NEW YORK

4224

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing the natural carbon sequestration research program

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 151-j to read as follows:

§ 151-j. Natural carbon sequestration research program. 1. There is hereby established the natural carbon sequestration research program. The purpose of the program is to develop innovative science-based solutions to facilitate sequestration of carbon in New York's natural and working lands in ways that decrease total greenhouse gas emissions. In developing the program, the New York state college of agriculture and life sciences as named pursuant to section fifty-seven hundred twelve of the education law shall conduct, support, and develop technologies and management strategies, along with verification systems to facilitate the natural drawdown of carbon from the atmosphere and storage underground.

2. Subject to available appropriations, the program shall consider, but not be limited to, the following: stabilizing existing carbon in the soil, increasing carbon sequestration through new practices and cropping systems, purposefully amending the soil with biochar and compost to boost total soil carbon and promote greenhouse gas life cycle benefits, advancing direct air capture of carbon dioxide in farmland and landscapes through enhanced weathering, utilizing other innovative technologies, and the synergies between such approaches, including agroforestry and reforestation to store carbon in both trees and soil while producing ancillary benefits for working lands. The research program shall also demonstrate successful technologies in pilot locations throughout the state of New York, utilize the Cornell Cooperative Exten-

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

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sion system for knowledge transfer, and prepare annual reports which shall be publicly disseminated.

3. The program shall include, but not be limited to, research on the following topics, consistent with New York state's climate goals:

(a) methods to sequester carbon in soils through nature-based solutions;

(b) improvement or enhancement of photosynthesis in plant life and delivery to soil to facilitate carbon sequestration;

(c) development and deployment of technologies to measure, model and verify carbon storage in natural and working lands;

(d) research that facilitates productive agroforestry, afforestation and reforestation, including research that facilitates increased nature-based carbon storage in peatlands and wetlands; and

(e) research that quantifies total greenhouse gas benefits, including but not limited to nitrous oxide, methane and carbon, to assure that there are overall greenhouse gas emission benefits.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.