STATE OF NEW YORK

9164

IN ASSEMBLY

February 8, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. SIMONE, McDONALD, ARDILA, GUNTHER, ALVAREZ, EACHUS, EPSTEIN, AUBRY, LEVENBERG, TAYLOR, K. BROWN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Environmental Conservation

AN ACT authorizing and directing the commissioner of environmental conservation to conduct a study on food waste initiatives and to provide recommendations based on the study's findings

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

Section 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "agency" means any state department, agency, board, public benefit corporation, public authority, or commission.

2. "food service establishments" shall include, but not be limited to, the following: full-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, and cafeterias.

3. "commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental conservation.

4. "department" means the department of environmental conservation.

5. "food waste" means food that is not required to meet the needs of a food service establishment and which is disposed of in a manner such that it will not be eaten.

6. "food waste initiative" means an initiative regarding the use and/or disposal of food waste.

§ 2. Study. 1. The commissioner is authorized and directed to conduct a study on food waste initiatives throughout the state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to:

a. food waste initiatives implemented or planned to be implemented by non-governmental organizations, agencies, and other states and nations;

b. any laws, rules, or regulations proposed or implemented in any municipality; and

c. scholarly articles and proposals for food waste initiatives.

2. Upon request, an agency shall provide the commissioner with information which may help complete the commissioner's study.

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

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§ 3. Report. The commissioner shall submit to the governor and the legislature, no later than eighteen months after the effective date of this act, a report on the findings of the study as well as the commissioner's recommendations for reducing food waste within the state.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.