STATE OF NEW YORK

1723

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2023

Introduced by Sens. SKOUFIS, MAY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to establish a youth development agriculture technology challenge

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

Section 1. There is hereby established a youth development agriculture technology challenge competition ("challenge") for students in elementary, secondary, and higher education. Such challenge shall be coordinated by the department of agriculture and markets ("department") as part of the state fair in conjunction with Cornell cooperative extension and other interested partners, including, but not limited to, institutions of higher education, school districts and boards of cooperative education services, youth agricultural organizations promoting leadership and career success in agriculture, and other science, technology, engineering and mathematics and/or robotics competition programs. The department is authorized to utilize funds appropriated for the state fair and received pursuant to section 31-c of the agriculture and markets law and to receive, accept and use gifts and donations for the purpose of this act which may be offered notwithstanding section eleven of the state finance law or any other provision of law. All money received as gifts or donations shall be deposited in a special fund pursuant to section 31-c of the agriculture and markets law and disbursed for the purposes of this act or paid to the commissioner of taxation and finance, who together with the state comptroller is hereby constituted and appointed the joint custodian thereof and shall constitute a special fund to be used under the direction of the department for the purposes of this act. The department, Cornell cooperative extension and other participating partners shall work together to establish the challenge to engage students to develop solutions to relevant technological problems and issues faced by farmers and food producers including, but not limited to, increasing food production, increasing energy effi-

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

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ciency and decreasing the cost of farming and food production, and addressing the impact of farming on the environment and the impact of environmental changes such as climate change or pollinator loss on farming. The department and its partners shall identify resources including training or coaching that will assist students in underserved rural and urban communities to participate in the challenge, and develop deadlines, parameters including establishing elementary, secondary, or higher education categories, and relevant judging criteria for the projects submitted for the agriculture technology challenge. Subject to funds available for the purposes of this act prizes may be awarded for the winning submissions of the challenge.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.