STATE OF NEW YORK

917

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the cannabis law, in relation to regional cannabis mentors

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

Section 1. The cannabis law is amended by adding a new section 19-a to read as follows:

§ 19-a. Regional cannabis mentors. 1. The office shall, within thirty days of the effective date of this section, establish and implement regional cannabis mentors to provide support to persons inquiring about, or participating in, the medical cannabis or adult-use cannabis industries. The office shall establish at least one such regional cannabis mentor within each economic development region of the state, pursuant to section two hundred thirty of the economic development law. Such support shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

(a) providing information and advice to applicants for any license authorized pursuant to this chapter, including assistance with completing applications;

(b) providing assistance to small businesses, including minority and women-owned businesses, in participating in such cannabis industries;

(c) providing information and advice to any municipality or other governmental entity on the effects of the provisions of this chapter; and

(d) providing information and advice to any person inquiring about the implementation of this chapter, including any future statutory and regulatory changes to this chapter.

2. The office shall establish and maintain such regional cannabis mentors using any existing or future appropriations to the office for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

3. Each regional cannabis mentor shall provide assistance by electronic and telephonic means. Such information shall be posted conspicuously on the office's website.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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