

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7218

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

April 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. HINCHEY -- 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 establishing the New York state equine industry board

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

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 387 to read as follows:

3 § 387. New York state equine industry board. 1. There shall be estab-  
4 lished within the department the New York state equine industry board,  
5 to advise and make recommendations to the state agencies on state  
6 government plans, policies and programs affecting all aspects of equine  
7 industry, as outlined below, and in such areas as its experience and  
8 studies may indicate to be appropriate. The department shall provide  
9 necessary secretarial and support services to the board.

10 2. The equine industry board shall consist of seventeen members  
11 appointed by the governor, selected for their experience and expertise  
12 related to areas of board responsibility. Members shall include the  
13 commissioner or their designee who shall act as chairperson of the  
14 board, and representatives of the following stakeholder groups: Cornell  
15 university college of agriculture and life sciences; Cornell university  
16 college of veterinary medicine; a rescue organization or the humane  
17 society; an organization involved in horse sanctuaries or racehorse  
18 aftercare; an organization involved in horse therapy; an equine veteri-  
19 narian; a trail or recreational riding group; the equine support indus-  
20 try; an organizer of horse shows, rodeos or competitions; horse boarders  
21 or riding stables; the horse breeding industry; farmers and ranchers; an  
22 academic researcher; the New York state horse council or a similar  
23 organization; the New York state Veterinary Medical Society or a similar  
24 organization; and a youth equine organization. Members shall be  
25 appointed for a term of three years and may serve until their successors

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

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1 are chosen provided, however, that of the members first appointed, five  
2 of the members shall serve for a term of one year, five shall serve for  
3 a term of two years, and seven shall serve for a term of three years.  
4 Members shall serve without salary but shall be entitled to reimburse-  
5 ment of their ordinary and necessary travel expenses.

6 3. (a) The duties and responsibilities of the equine advisory board  
7 shall include, but not be limited to, providing timely advice, comments  
8 and recommendations to the commissioner regarding:

9 (i) equine-tourism;

10 (ii) equine industry promotion;

11 (iii) workforce development;

12 (iv) educational and training initiatives;

13 (v) humane treatment of horses; and

14 (vi) other areas of interest identified by the board.

15 (b) The commissioner may delegate to the board such additional duties  
16 and responsibilities as are deemed necessary.

17 4. The duties and responsibilities of the equine industry board shall  
18 include, but not be limited to, providing timely advice, comments and  
19 recommendations to the commissioner and other state agency heads regard-  
20 ing all aspects of the equine industry in the state. Concerned state  
21 agencies shall be encouraged to establish a working relationship with  
22 the board and shall fully cooperate with the board in any requests it  
23 shall make.

24 5. The equine industry board may ask other individuals to attend its  
25 meetings or work with it on an occasional or regular basis. The board  
26 shall set the time and place of its meetings and shall hold at least one  
27 meeting per year. The board may establish committees and regional work-  
28 ing groups as necessary.

29 6. The equine industry board shall produce an annual report to the  
30 governor and the legislature on or before the end of each calendar year  
31 concerning its activities during the previous year and its program  
32 expectations for the succeeding year.

33 7. (a) The equine industry board shall advise the commissioner in  
34 establishing procedures for making annual awards and grants, within the  
35 limits of appropriations made therefor, recognizing New York equine  
36 businesses, individuals, and institutions that are successful in inno-  
37 vatating, marketing, and/or promoting New York equine industries. The  
38 commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of economic develop-  
39 ment to determine which department shall make awards and grants in vari-  
40 ous categories identified by the equine industry board. These awards and  
41 grants shall be given in recognition of exceptional performance, inno-  
42 vation and support for New York equine industries by persons, firms and  
43 organizations that are principally located within the state of New York  
44 and engaged in the operation of New York equine farms, businesses and  
45 institutions.

46 (b) The board may annually nominate and forward such nominations for  
47 awards and grants to the commissioner consideration in the following  
48 categories:

49 (i) veterinary practice and horse welfare;

50 (ii) equine-tourism;

51 (iii) workforce development;

52 (iv) public education;

53 (v) youth equine activities; and

54 (vi) such other awards and grants as the equine advisory board shall  
55 recommend.

1 (c) The commissioner shall have the discretion to designate award and  
2 grant winners from these nominees. Current members of the board and  
3 their businesses are not eligible as nominees.  
4 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
5 have become a law.