STATE OF NEW YORK

9536

IN SENATE

March 20, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- 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 and the education law, in relation to establishing a community garden grant program for all state university of New York and city university of New York campuses

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 31-k to read as follows:

§ 31-k. Community gardens on SUNY and CUNY campuses. The office shall establish a community garden grant program for all state university of New York and city university of New York campuses, utilizing funds appropriated therefor. For the purpose of growing fresh farm products and providing healthy food options, state university of New York and city university of New York campuses shall have the ability to apply directly to the grant program through the office. Upon the request and application of state university of New York and city university of New York campuses, the office shall administer the grant money to campuses based on an eligibility criterion, including but not limited to state university of New York and city university of New York accreditation, sustainable plan for operation and maintenance, and projected community impact. Participating campuses in this program shall submit a biannual report to the office including details of how funds are utilized. Under such program, the office shall distribute money to each eligible institution based upon the financial need requested from the institution.

§ 2. Section 237 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 8 to read as follows:

8. The regents shall authorize all state university of New York and city university of New York campuses to apply for the community garden grant program through the office of community gardens pursuant to section thirty-one-k of the agriculture and markets law, for the purpose of growing and maintaining garden infrastructure.

§ 3. 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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