STATE OF NEW YORK

7342--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 25, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER, BUTTENSCHON, SHIMSKY, JONES, HAWLEY -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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:

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

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

2. The equine industry board shall consist of seventeen members appointed by the governor, selected for their experience and expertise related to areas of board responsibility. Members shall include the commissioner or their designee who shall act as chairperson of the board, and representatives of the following stakeholder groups: Cornell university college of agriculture and life sciences; Cornell university college of veterinary medicine; a rescue organization or the humane society; an organization involved in horse sanctuaries or racehorse aftercare; an organization involved in horse therapy; an equine veterinarian; a trail or recreational riding group; the equine support industry; an organizer of horse shows, rodeos or competitions; horse boarders or riding stables; the horse breeding industry; farmers and ranchers; an academic researcher; the New York state horse council or a similar organization; the New York state Veterinary Medical Society or a similar

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

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organization; and a youth equine organization. Members shall be appointed for a term of three years and may serve until their successors are chosen provided, however, that of the members first appointed, five of the members shall serve for a term of one year, five shall serve for a term of two years, and seven shall serve for a term of three years. Members shall serve without salary but shall be entitled to reimbursement of their ordinary and necessary travel expenses.

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

(i) equine-tourism;

(ii) equine industry promotion;

(iii) workforce development;

(iv) educational and training initiatives;

(v) humane treatment of horses; and

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

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

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

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

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

7. (a) The equine industry board shall advise the commissioner in establishing procedures for making annual awards and grants, within the limits of appropriations made therefor, recognizing New York equine businesses, individuals, and institutions that are successful in innovating, marketing, and/or promoting New York equine industries. The commissioner shall coordinate with the commissioner of economic development to determine which department shall make awards and grants in various categories identified by the equine industry board. These awards and grants shall be given in recognition of exceptional performance, innovation and support for New York equine industries by persons, firms and organizations that are principally located within the state of New York and engaged in the operation of New York equine farms, businesses and institutions.

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

(i) veterinary practice and horse welfare;

(ii) equine-tourism;

(iii) workforce development;

(iv) public education;

(v) youth equine activities; and

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

(c) The commissioner shall have the discretion to designate award and grant winners from these nominees. Current members of the board and their businesses are not eligible as nominees.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.