

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

New York State Assembly Carl E. Heastie Speaker

Committee on Agriculture

William Magee Chairman





WILLIAM MAGEE Member of Assembly 121st Assembly District

CHAIRMAN Committee on Agriculture

THE ASSEMBLY STATE OF NEW YORK ALBANY

CHAIRMAN Joint Legislative Commission on Dairy Industry Development

> COMMITTEES Aging Banks Higher Education Local Governments

December 15, 2018

Honorable Carl Heastie Speaker of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 349 Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie,

As Chairperson of the Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture, I respectfully submit to you the 2018 Annual Report. I have outlined the Committee's significant legislation, as well as the Committee's priorities for the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session.

The agricultural industry is one of the largest in New York State, as documented in a 2015 report by Farm Credit East, which estimated that the total impact on State economic output from agricultural, commercial fishing and forestry production, food processing and off-farm services was approximately \$48 billion and supported 197,745 jobs. Dairy processing alone was estimated to be valued at \$23 billion in output and supporting over 49,000 jobs. The 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture shows that nearly 23 percent of New York's land area, over 7.1 million acres, is used by more than 35,000 farms to produce a diverse array of food products such as dairy, grains, fruits, vegetables and maple syrup. 2017 was the five-year recurrence of the Census and we look forward to the results showing positive indicators that farming is prospering in New York.

New York is ranked among the top states for production of apples, grapes, juice and wine, pears, cabbage, maple syrup, milk and dairy products such as Greek yogurt, cottage cheese and sour cream, onions, snap beans, sweet corn, tomatoes and many other agricultural commodities. While New York State ranks high in production of several farm products, the typical farm is a small business, family-owned and managed. Additionally, New York has the third-largest number of certified organic farms in the nation. These characteristics are reflected in the programs developed to assist our agricultural sector.

Throughout the 2018 Legislative Session, the Committee remained dedicated to promoting policies that would help New York's farms, advancing legislation that passed both houses of the Legislature providing support to new and beginning farmers and food businesses, reducing costs for farmers, and establishing programs providing technical assistance. Animal protection legislation is an important component of the Committee's work, and several bills that strengthen animal welfare were approved this past Session.

This year's State budget was very supportive of the agriculture industry. The Legislature restored over \$11.6 million and added over \$1.4 million in new funding for new and existing programs that provide assistance and services directly to farmers. Funding was again provided for improvements at county fairs and projects at companion animal shelters.

While farming continues to face challenges, there are also many opportunities for growth that the State must be ready and willing to support. One of my primary goals as Chair was to make sure the State Legislature supported our hard-working farmers who supply us with the best food and drink in the world. Support for our farmers has grown in the Assembly Majority from all regions, both Upstate and Downstate, and I expect that to continue. For that I am grateful.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee, the rest of my Assembly colleagues, and all the agriculture groups in the State for supporting me in my role as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee, and for supporting our requests for funding in the budget and advancing legislation that is essential to the agricultural community. I also want to thank the Speaker for entrusting me with this job. On behalf of New York State Assembly's Committee on Agriculture, I thank you for your leadership and continued encouragement and support in addressing these important issues.

Sincerely,

Bill magu

William Magee Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture

2018 ANNUAL REPORT NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Members

William Magee Chairman

MAJORITY

Barbara S. Lifton Aileen M. Gunther Linda B. Rosenthal Addie Jenne Harry B. Bronson José J. Rivera Didi Barrett Al Stirpe Angelo Santabarbara James Skoufis Carrie Woerner Billy Jones Harvey Epstein

MINORITY

Kenneth D. Blankenbush, Ranking Marc W. Butler Clifford Crouch Gary D. Finch Stephen Hawley Michael Fitzpatrick

STAFF

Giovanni Warren, Assistant Secretary for Program & Policy Robert Stern, Principal Analyst Sarah Klein, Counsel Emily Sischo, Committee Assistant Nicole VanAuken, Executive Secretary Connie Groves, Committee Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

I. Committee Jurisdiction	5
II. 2018 Committee Accomplishments A. Support for New York's Farms and Food Businesses	6 6
B. Animal Safety and Control	7
C. Other Legislation	9
D. Hearings/Roundtables	10
E. Agriculture Budget 2018-2019	11
III. 2019 Outlook	14

APPENDICES

	SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION	15
APPENDIX B:	CHAPTER LIST FOR THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR 2018	16
APPENDIX C:	COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE BILLS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY IN 2018	18

I. Committee Jurisdiction

The Assembly Standing Committee on Agriculture is responsible for legislation that relates to the Agriculture and Markets Law, oversight of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and helping to craft the Department's budget. The Committee collaborates closely with institutions of higher education and other organizations to foster agriculture research and development through programs such as the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Center at Cornell and the New York Farm Viability Institute. The Committee also works with farmers and their representatives to develop policies and programs to promote the State's agricultural products, support the growth of agricultural, food and beverage businesses, preserve our State's farmland resources and protect the welfare of our companion animals.

As part of its legislative and oversight functions, the Committee on Agriculture investigates issues related to Agricultural District enhancements, food inspections and safety, farmland protection, farm product sales and marketing, agribusiness licensing and regulation, the humane treatment of companion animals, kosher laws, consumer protection and animal diseases.

Agricultural-related legislation is often considered by other Assembly Committees, such as the Committees on Ways and Means, Codes, Economic Development, Environmental Conservation, Labor, Consumer Affairs, and Energy, and the Committee provides input and counsel to those committees to make sure that agricultural interests are taken into account.

II. 2018 Committee Accomplishments

A. Support for New York's Farms and Food Businesses

New York State offers many programs and policies that assist farmers and related food businesses, including New York Agricultural Districts, marketing programs, training and research. As the market and demand for local agricultural products increases, it is important that the State continues to provide the tools and support for our farmers to maximize their productivity. The Committee on Agriculture places great importance on assisting farmers and food producers to better participate, grow and compete in rapidly changing, competitive marketplaces.

1. Guidelines for Pollinator Protection (A.8083-A Magee)

This bill would direct the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and universities with expertise in pollinator protection, to adopt guidelines for vegetation management plans utilized by businesses that make public claims that their property or projects on a property, such as solar arrays, are pollinator-friendly or provide protection to pollinators. The reduction of pollinator-friendly habitats has contributed to the loss of pollinators, which is negatively impacting the environment and New York agriculture. Businesses that use vegetation plans to make their property or solar installations pollinator-friendly should be encouraged, but any claims need to demonstrate they are meeting minimum pollinator protection standards that would be issued by the State.

2. Access to Viable Agricultural Land for New and Beginning Farmers (A.10056 Magee)

This bill would amend existing State agricultural laws that direct the Department of Agriculture and Markets and other State agencies to provide assistance to farmers to emphasize that such support be directed to new and beginning farmers where appropriate. It would require the State's Advisory Council on Agriculture to advise state agencies regarding tax, financial assistance, and other policies and programs that could address the needs of beginning farmers and the issues they face related to the transfer of ownership of farms. It would also encourage the identification of properties owned by the State or private owners that are available for purchase or lease and viable for farming and authorize the Department of Agriculture and Markets to make this information available on their website

3. Hopyard Property Tax Exemption (Chapter 192 of the Laws of 2018/A.10097 Woerner)

This law extends the Agricultural District Law tax exemptions for startup vineyards and orchards to hops growers. The exemption applies for the first six years as the plants grow and develop. Hop plants require a large initial investment and they take years to reach full production capacity, when the owners can begin to sell a crop. The State has promoted farm breweries, which are required to buy New York State hops and grains, making the success of hop growers crucial to this industry.

4. Farmland Protection Funding Changes (Chapter 158 of the Laws of 2018)/A.10301-B Barrett)

This law authorizes the use of State farmland protection funding to purchase farm conservation easements where the easement holder, such as a land trust, would have the right to intervene in future sales of protected farmland by preemptively purchasing the property if the owner attempted to sell to a non-farmer. The goal is to make sure that farmers, not second-home owners or absentee landowners renting to farmers, are able to afford to purchase farmland that was protected from development through the State's Farmland Protection Program.

The current owner of the farm would have to voluntarily agree to these restrictions in return for the purchase of the farm's development rights as part of the State program.

5. Agricultural Assessment Applications (Veto 299/A.10384-A Woerner)

This bill would authorize in both Agriculture and Markets Law and Real Property Law the electronic submission of annual agriculture assessment applications to local assessors. Farmers often rent land from landowners who are not farming, but the owners need to file the applications every year. Electronic submission would make the process work better for the farmers and non-farmer landowners, especially those who may not reside in the community where the farmland is located.

6. Seed and Fertilizer Regulation (Chapter 253 of the Laws of 2018/A.10803 Magee)

This law updates regulations and definitions of seeds, fertilizer and other similar horticulture products to make them consistent with recognized national standards and improve transparency and protection for farmers and consumers who purchase these products.

7. Beer and Cider Ice Cream (Chapter 118 of the Laws of 2018/A.10827 Magee)

This law authorizes the sale of beer or cider ice cream with alcohol content up to five percent. Correspondingly, it amends the existing law authorizing the sale of wine ice cream to those 21 and over and requires warning labeling and signage that the products contain wine, beer or cider. This change will benefit dairy farms and the growing number of farm breweries and cideries that will partner to produce these products, as well as New York food businesses that create these new desserts.

B. Animal Safety and Control

New Yorkers care deeply for the health and safety of their pets and other animals. The Committee advanced legislation to strengthen animal welfare and protect and assist pet owners and the public.

1. Shelter Costs for Animal Crimes (Chapter 289 of the Laws of 2018/A.62-A Paulin)

This bill would clarify the law that authorizes animal shelters to petition defendants accused of animal crimes for costs of caring for their animals. It has been reported that some judges believe the petitions should be filed in civil court rather than the court where the charges are brought. This bill explicitly states that the petitions are filed in the criminal court where the charges are brought.

2. Care of Animals in Shelters (A.72-A Paulin)

This bill would update the pet dealer law to add more specific provisions regarding the care of animals. It would add provisions such as day and night lighting, minimum space for pregnant dogs, specific standards for cleaning living areas and food receptacles, and grooming requirements.

3. Animals Left in Cars (A.4029-A Thiele)

This bill would authorize, but not require, paid and volunteer firefighters to release a companion animal confined in a motor vehicle in extreme temperature conditions without civil or criminal liability, provided: the volunteer firefighter is on duty and responding to a call for assistance for the animal; they attempt to locate the owner; and, they leave a written note explaining where the pet was taken. Existing law currently authorizes police, animal control and humane society officers to remove animals in these situations.

4. Therapy Dogs

(Chapter 37 of the Laws of 2018/A.8926 Titone)

This law updates the membership of a working group established by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to study the issue of standards, licensing and training for therapy and other support dogs. The changes will add the following State agencies to the group: Office for the Aging, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, and Division of Veterans Affairs, as well as representatives of the mental health community.

5. Microchipping of Pets (Chapter 36 of the Laws of 2018/A.8951 Rosenthal)

This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to appoint an advisory committee composed of industry and animal shelter representatives to make recommendations within the next two years on the need for regulations providing for the standardization of technology used in microchips implanted into dogs and cats and whether law enforcement and animal control officers and shelters seizing and possessing lost dogs and cats should be required to have microchip readers that can read any chip offered for sale in the marketplace.

6. Animal Shelters and Cats (Chapter 421 of the Laws of 2018/A.9970-B Jenne)

This bill would authorize municipalities to reduce the number of days, from five to three, that stray or homeless cats taken by shelters without any identification by tags, or microchips or markings, must be held before they can be put up for adoption.

7. Pet Leasing Prohibition (Chapter 272 of the Laws of 2018/A.10082-B Titone)

This bill would prohibit the leasing of cats or dogs, including any contracts for the purchase of a dog or a cat, or the financing of such purchases, which authorize the use of the dog or cat as collateral where the pet may be repossessed by the seller or lender contingent on the purchaser making payments under the contract.

8. St. Johnsville Dog Licensing (Chapter 349 of the Laws of 2018/A.10704 Santabarbara)

This bill would move dog licensing responsibilities from the Town of St. Johnsville to the Village of St. Johnsville as part of consolidation of services.

C. Other Legislation

1. Propane Emergencies (A.8940-A Santabarbara)

Many propane customers in New York have contracts with suppliers who provide the tank for the customer and require that the customer only buy gas from the owner of the tank. These agreements can sometimes result in a situation where, during an emergency, the contracted supplier is unable to refill a customer's tank and the customer is restricted by the contract from buying from another supplier, leaving a household without gas for days.

This bill would authorize consumers to purchase propane from any supplier to fill a tank when they cannot get their contracted supplier to respond or deliver gas in a timely manner and one of the following imminent situations exist: there is a declared emergency at the federal, State or local level; or extreme weather or other circumstances such as a supply shortage would put someone at risk of injury or death and/or their property at risk of significant damage. The customer, in good faith, would have to make attempts to procure gas from their contracted supplier first. No additional delivery or refilling fees or penalties other than the regular fees in the contract could be imposed on a customer for purchasing from another propane company when the conditions outlined in the bill were in effect.

D. Hearings/Roundtables

Public Hearing on Oversight of the 2018-19 State Budget:

On November 28, 2018, the Committee held a budget oversight hearing on programs funded in the 2018-19 State Budget and administered by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The goal of the hearing was to examine the overall impact and implementation of the 2018-19 budget and assess the impact and effectiveness of New York's agricultural programs. Those testifying included: the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets; Cornell University; Farm Bureau; the New York State Farm Viability Institute; farmers concerned about invasive species; associations representing vegetable growers, wine and grape growers, and maple producers; a farmland preservation organization; and, companion animal protection organizations. Those participating advocated for more funding to address agricultural research needs, protection of farms, marketing of New York farm products and animal shelter infrastructure.

E. Agriculture Budget 2018-2019

In the SFY 2018-2019 Department of Agriculture and Markets budget, the Legislature included an estimated \$54 million for local assistance and \$115 million for State operations. Funding for capital projects totaled \$17 million, including \$5 million for local fairs capital and \$5 million for projects at companion animal shelters.

The Legislature demonstrated its interest in promoting and protecting agriculture by adding funding for programs related to marketing, research, education and support for farmers. The final budget restored funding for organizations such as the New York State Apple Growers and the Cornell Veterinary Diagnostic Lab; added additional funds for hops and honeybee research; and provided new funding for assisting beginning farmers trying to access protected farmland, research in support of hard cider producers, and monitoring of a new strain of salmonella bacteria to protect dairy cows and consumers of dairy products.

An "Add" represents additional or new funding for a program compared to the previous year and a "Restoration" denotes the Legislature restoring funding to the previous year's level.

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Change	Enacted Budget	
Proposal Adds Res		Restorations		
Cornell Diagnostic Lab				
"Core" Diagnostic Lab	\$4,425,000		\$1,000,000	\$5,425,000
NYS Cattle Health Assurance				
Program	\$360,000			\$360,000
Quality Milk Production Services Program	\$1,174,000			\$1,174,000
Cornell University Johnes Disease				
Program	\$480,000			\$480,000
Cornell University Rabies Program	\$50,000		\$560,000	\$610,000
Cornell University Avian Disease				
Program	\$252,000	\$50,000		\$302,000
Other Cornell Programs				
Cornell University Agriculture in				
the Classroom	\$267,000		\$113,000	\$380,000
Cornell University Future Farmers	* =00.000		* 4 4 9 9 9 9	*• • • • •
of America	\$730,000		\$112,000	\$842,000
Association of Agricultural	¢202.000		¢112.000	¢446.000
Educators Cornell University Farm Family	\$303,000		\$113,000	\$416,000
Assistance	\$384,000	\$72,000	\$416,000	\$872,000
Hop Evaluation and Field Testing				
Program	\$40,000	\$100,000	\$160,000	\$300,000
Cornell University Golden				
Nematode Program	\$62,000			\$62,000
Cornell University Pro-Dairy				
Program	\$822,000		\$379,000	\$1,201,000
Dairy Profit Teams	\$150,000			\$150,000
Cornell University Onion			* =0.000	A =0.000
Research			\$50,000	\$50,000

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Budget	Legislative Changes		Enacted Budget	
	Proposal	Adds	Restorations		
Cornell University Vegetable Research			\$100,000	\$100,000	
Cornell University Honeybee Research		\$100,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	
Cornell University Maple Research			\$125,000	\$125,000	
Cornell University Berry Research			\$260,000	\$260,000	
Cornell Veterans to Farms			\$115,000	\$115,000	
Cornell Farm Labor Specialist			\$200,000	\$200,000	
Other Programs					
Ag Child Care (Migrant)	\$8,275,000		\$1,000,000	\$9,275,000	
Local Fairs	\$340,000		\$160,000	\$500,000	
New York Wine and Grape Foundation	\$713,000		\$310,000	\$1,023,000	
New York Farm Viability Institute	\$400,000		\$1,500,000	\$1,900,000	
Dairy Profit Teams/NY FVI			\$220,000	\$220,000	
New York State Apple Growers Association	\$206,000		\$544,000	\$750,000	
Apple Research and Development			\$500,000	\$500,000	
Wood Products Development Council			\$100,000	\$100,000	
Maple Producers Association		\$10,000	\$215,000	\$225,000	
NY Corn and Soybean Growers			\$75,000	\$75,000	
Tractor Rollover Protection Program			\$250,000	\$250,000	
Northern NY Agricultural Development			\$600,000	\$600,000	
Eastern Equine Encephalitis			\$175,000	\$175,000	
Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship			\$150,000	\$150,000	
North Country Low-cost Rabies Vaccine			\$25,000	\$25,000	
NY Christmas Tree Farmers			\$125,000	\$125,000	
New York State Berry Growers			\$60,000	\$60,000	
Grown on LI			\$100,000	\$100,000	
Genesee County Ag Academy			\$100,000	\$100,000	
Island Harvest Food Bank			\$20,000	\$20,000	
Taste NY	\$1,100,000		φ20,000	\$1,100,000	
Farm-To-School	\$750,000			\$750,000	
North Country Farm-to-School	<i>\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\</i>		\$300,000	\$300,000	
LI Deer Fencing			\$200,000	\$200,000	
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program			\$200,000	\$200,000	
Electronic Benefits Transfer	\$138,000		φυυυ,υυυ	\$138,000	

Agriculture and Markets (Local Assistance)	Governor's Legislative Changes Budget		Enacted Budget	
	Proposal	Adds	Restorations	
North Country Ag Academy			\$200,000	\$200,000
NYS Brewers Association			\$75,000	\$75,000
NYS Distillers Guild			\$75,000	\$75,000
NY Cider Association			\$75,000	\$75,000
Farm to Table Trail Program			\$50,000	\$50,000
Seeds of Success (school gardens)			\$100,000	\$100,000
New Programs				
Cornell Salmonella Dublin Program (Diagnostic Lab)		\$200,000		\$200,000
Cornell Hard Cider Research		\$200,000		\$200,000
Cornell Concord Grape Research		\$300,000		\$300,000
NYS Fair Wool Center Redevelopment		\$25,000		\$25,000
Farmland for a New Generation Resource Center		\$200,000		\$200,000
Farmland for a New Generation Regional Navigator		\$200,000		\$200,000
Total	\$21,421,000	\$1,407,000	\$11,607,000	\$34,435,000

III. 2019 Outlook

In 2018, the Standing Committee on Agriculture continued to: provide state financial support; offer tax incentives and reduce administrative burdens for farmers; foster research to help farmers boost productivity; assist food businesses; protect agricultural land; and protect pets and their owners. In the coming year, the Committee expects to continue to address issues of concern to farmers, consumers, pet owners and related businesses.

APPENDIX A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ON ALL BILLS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Final Action	Assembly Bills	Senate Bills	Total Bills
BILLS REPORTED FAVORABLE TO:			
Codes	7	0	7
Judiciary	0	0	0
Ways & Means	8	0	8
Rules	1	0	1
Floor	2	0	2
Total	18	0	18
COMMITTEE ACTION			
Bills Held for Consideration	12	0	12
Bills Defeated in Committee	0	0	0
Bills Having Enacting Clauses Stricken	7	0	7
BILLS HAVING COMMITTEE REFERENCE CHANGED	0	0	0
BILLS REMAINING IN COMMITTEE	143	27	170
TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD	5		

APPENDIX B NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE CHAPTERS

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.62-A	Paulin	This law would clarify the law that authorizes animal shelters to petition defendants accused of animal crimes for costs of caring for their animals. Chapter 289 of the Laws of 2018
A.8083-A	Magee	This law directs the Department of Agriculture and Markets, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation and universities with expertise in pollinator protection, to adopt guidelines for vegetation management plans used by businesses that make public claims that their property or projects on a property, such as solar arrays, are "pollinator friendly" or provide protection to pollinators. Chapter 399 of the Laws of 2018
A.8926	Titone	This law would include the following State agencies: Office for the Aging, Office of Children and Family Services, Office of Mental Health, Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, and Division of Veterans Affairs, as well as representatives of the mental health community, in a working group to study the issue of standards, licensing and training for therapy and other support dogs. Chapter 37 of the Laws of 2018
A.8951	Rosenthal	This law requires the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to appoint an advisory committee composed of industry and animal shelter representatives to make recommendations within the next two years on the need for regulations providing for the standardization of technology used in microchips implanted into dogs and cats and whether law enforcement and animal control officers and shelters seizing and possessing lost dogs and cats should be required to have microchip readers that can read any chip offered for sale in the marketplace. Chapter 36 of the Laws of 2018
А.9970-В	Jenne	This bill would authorize municipalities to reduce the number of days, from five to three, that stray or homeless cats taken by shelters without any identification by tags, or microchips or markings, must be held before they can be put up for adoption. Chapter 421 of the Laws of 2018
A.10082-B	Titone	This law would prohibit the leasing of cats or dogs, including any contracts for the purchase of a dog or a cat, or the financing of such purchases, which authorize the use of the dog or cat as collateral where the pet may be repossessed by the seller or lender contingent on the purchaser making payments under the contract. Chapter 272 of the Laws of 2018
A.10097	Woerner	This law extends the Agricultural District Law tax exemptions for startup vineyards and orchards to hops growers. Chapter 192 of the Laws of 2018
A.10301-B	Barrett	This law authorizes the utilization of State farmland protection funding to purchase farm conservation easements where the easement holder, such as a land trust, would have the right to influence future sales of protected farmland by preemptively purchasing the property if the owner attempted to sell to a non-farmer. Chapter 158 of the Laws of 2018
A.10704	Santabarbara	This law moves dog licensing responsibilities from the Town of St. Johnsville to the Village of St. Johnsville as part of consolidation of services. Chapter 349 of the Laws of 2018

A.10803	Magee	This law updates regulations and definitions of seeds, fertilizer and other similar horticulture products to make them consistent with recognized national standards and improve transparency and protection for farmers and consumers who purchase these products. Chapter 253 of the Laws of 2018
A.10827	Magee	This law authorizes the sale of beer or cider ice cream with alcohol content up to five percent, similar to wine ice cream. Chapter 118 of the Laws of 2018

APPENDIX C NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE BILLS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly Bill #	Sponsor	Description
A.72-A	Paulin	This bill would update the pet dealer law to add more specific provisions regarding the care of animals.
A.4029-A	Thiele	This bill would authorize paid and volunteer firefighters to release a companion animal confined in a motor vehicle in extreme temperature conditions without civil or criminal liability, provided: the volunteer firefighter is on duty and responding to a call for assistance for the animal; they attempt to locate the owner; and they leave a written note explaining where the pet was taken.
A.8940-A	Santabarbara	This bill would authorize households to procure gas from any supplier when they run low or out of propane to heat their house during prolonged weather emergencies and supply shortages and cannot get their contracted supplier to respond or deliver gas.
A.10056	Magee	This bill would authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to enhance access to viable agricultural land for new and beginning farmers.
A.10384-A	Woerner	This law authorizes the electronic submission of annual agriculture assessment applications to local assessors in both Agriculture and Markets Law and Real Property Law. Veto # 299
K. 1273	Lupardo	This Resolution urged the United States Congress to recognize hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity and to pass the Hemp Farming Act of 2018.