



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 7568 (Assemblymember Lupardo)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW AND THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW, IN RELATION TO BEE HEALTH AND THE BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY; AND TO REPEAL CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW RELATING THERETO

Date: 5/19/2021

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, would like to express its support for this legislation.

This legislation would establish an apiary industry advisory committee and allow for the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) to perform inspections to prevent the spread of infections or contagious disease. This legislation would also establish a cooperative honeybee health improvement program which would require the registration of apiaries and allow for annual inspections of apiaries selling a nucleus colony.

Bees play a critical role in the agriculture industry. This bill would improve the ability of the state to monitor some of the health challenges for honey bees, including infectious diseases and parasites. Allowing AGM to closely monitor the occurrence of disease will benefit the apiaries along with maintaining a healthy honey bee population in New York State.

For these reasons, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your support of this legislation.