



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Assembly Bill 823 (Assemblyman Stirpe) / Senate Bill 5941 (Senator Valesky)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW IN RELATION TO A REDUCED FOOD PROCESSING LICENSE FEE FOR SMALL-SCALE FOOD PROCESSORS

Date: 5/15/2017

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, supports this legislation to develop a tiered license fee structure for food processors. This would assist smaller food processors in overcoming the cost burden of obtaining a license and further encourage the development of innovative food businesses in the state.

This bill would create a second tier of processor licenses for those operations that are not chain stores and have no more than 10 full-time employees. The biennial fee of \$400 would be reduced to \$175 for these small-scale processors. For many new operations, this difference in fees can help remove some of the start-up costs that can hamper businesses and would not change the fact that these processors still need to assure the same high level of food safety for consumers.

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