

State

Law Requires Agencies to Buy Food from NY Growers

By LUTHER F. BLIVEN
ALBANY — A bill authorizing all state agencies operating food programs to give preferential treatment to New York state food products has been signed into law by Gov. Mario Cuomo.

Sponsored by two area state senators — Tarky Lombardi Jr., Syracuse, and Lloyd S. Riford Jr., Auburn, both Republicans — the law is designed to provide expanded markets for state dairymen, farmers and fruit and vegetable growers.

The law requires that a percentage of all products the agencies purchase be grown, produced, harvested or processed in this state.

The state commissioners of agriculture and general services are empowered to work out the regulations to implement the

new law and to identify which food products will be subject to state preference. The law is effective immediately and the preferences must be established by Sept. 1.

In other action this week:

● Cuomo signed a bill requiring every licensed public accountant and certified public accountant in New York to complete a one-time, 40-hour continuing education program annually for a three-year period.

"The rapid proliferation of technical knowledge in the accounting field makes continuing education an essential element of every public accountant's obligation to maintain professional competence," Cuomo said.

The law is effective immediately but

will expire Sept. 30, 1987. The measure also creates a continuing education committee to review — during the three years the law is operative — the effectiveness of mandatory continuing education for accountants. The committee also is required to make a recommendation whether it should be continued permanently.

Cuomo said 45 other states require some form of continuing education for public accountants.

A spokesman for the state Board of Public Accountancy of the state Education Department reported there are now about 3,000 licensed public accountants and 27,000 certified public accountants registered with the state. No separate registration figures were available for Onondaga County.

Each registrant already pays a triennial state registration fee of \$120 after passing an initial examination that costs \$225. Each licensed public accountant and certified public accountant will be assessed a special, one-time \$35 fee to finance the cost of the continuing education program.

● Cuomo signed a bill requiring marriage license applications to contain a notice that applicants have a right to retain their individual surnames once they are married, or to choose any other surname that consists of either their spouse's surname or any combination of their present and former surnames.

● The governor signed a bill allowing Vietnam War veterans to get tuition awards for vocational training for two academic years of full-time study or four

academic years of part-time study in any vocational training program approved by the state education commissioner.

● Cuomo approved a measure waiving, for unemployed people, the customary \$5 fee for taking an open competitive civil service examination.

● Cuomo directed the state Health Department to find a less time-consuming way to periodically recertify the state's 25,000 volunteer emergency medical technicians. EMTs, who provide emergency services through volunteer first aid, emergency care and ambulance units, are currently required to complete a 33-hour refresher course and pass a practical skills tests and a written examination every three years in order to be recertified.

Study Says Tax Plan Would Soften State's Competitive Edge

Post-Standard News Services
ALBANY — The Reagan administration's tax reform plan would add \$2.4 billion to New York tax bills next year and put the state at a competitive disadvantage in years to come, a report issued Friday says.

However, the Reagan administration tax plan, when fully implemented in 1987, would save New York residents \$588 million a year, a draft report released by Comptroller Edward Regan says.

Regan said those tax savings would be much smaller than those of other states, though, putting New York at an economic disadvantage.

"This unwelcome news comes because, under the proposal, taxpayers would lose state and local income taxes as a federal deduction beginning on Jan. 1, 1986," Regan said.

The report, based on detailed computer analysis, confirms other recent studies showing the administration's tax reform plan would hurt New York more than it would help.

Generally speaking, the Reagan proposals would shift the tax burden from individuals to corporations. It would cut federal personal income taxes for the average worker by 7 percent nationwide — once fully implemented, according



EDWARD REGAN
 Taxpayers' Savings Small

to the administration. But the comptroller's report says the federal tax reduction for New York taxpayers would be only 1.1 percent, or \$588 million, reflecting the loss of deductibility for state and local taxes.

Even when the president's plan is fully in effect, "the benefits of the federal tax reductions would go largely to higher and lower income taxpayers, while those in the middle income range would gain the least and, in some cases, would even see their tax bills increase," the study says.

Man Accused of Swindling Parents of Missing Boy

Post-Standard News Services
BUFFALO — A Michigan man accused of defrauding \$11,000 from the parents of missing Iowa paper boy Johnny Gosch was held on \$50,000 bail Friday pending an Aug. 26 court appearance.

Robert Herman Meier II, 19, surrendered to FBI agents Thursday while crossing the Rainbow International Bridge in Niagara Falls with his mother and brother, and was being held at the Erie County Holding Center on fraud charges.



MEIER

Meier has been charged with swindling Gosch's parents, John and Koreen Gosch, who paid him \$11,000 and agreed to wire another \$100,000 to a Bahamian bank account upon the safe return of their

son, who Meier said has been sold into slavery.

Johnny Gosch was 12 when he disappeared while delivering Sunday newspapers near his West Des Moines home Sept. 5, 1982.

The FBI believes there is no validity to Meier's claim he saw Gosch alive in Mexico and could identify people involved in the boy's abduction. The boy's father, however, claims he still believes Meier's story.

"He knows more about this whole situation than these people realize," John Gosch said Thursday night. "My problem right now is if Johnny is still alive in Mexico, after the release of the story, the individuals may kill him so he can't tell what happened."

Meier, who had been using the name Samuel Forbes Dakota, had written letters to the Gosch family saying he is a member of the Hells Angels motorcycle club, and that he had guarded about 200 children, 30 of whom had been sold.

D'Amato Says Nassau GOP Expected Worker Kickbacks

UNIONDALE (AP) — Sen. Alfonse D'Amato testified Friday that some Republican Party leaders expected contributions from government employees before recommending them for job promotions in Nassau County during the 1970s.

"As I look back, the answer is, it obviously was a factor," D'Amato said in federal court. "It was a consideration, no doubt, in some Republican leaders' minds. In my case, it never was."

A 1971 letter from D'Amato, then supervisor of Hempstead, is figuring in allegations that government workers were forced to kick back part of their salaries to the powerful Nassau County GOP.

D'Amato, of Island Park, wrote a letter to GOP officials June 9, 1971, which was submitted as evidence in the class-action suit to back employee claims that raises, promotions and overtime were tied to political contributions.

In the letter, D'Amato stated, "I've spoken to Joe Margiotta (then

county GOP leader), and he has indicated to me that the raise for Robert Marcus of the Sanitation Department would be approved if he took care of his 1 percent.

"Accordingly, please find a check for \$75 from the Island Park Republican Committeemen's Council," the letter stated.

In court, D'Amato testified Marcus, of Island Park, was "never questioned, advised or pressured about the contribution."

In testimony Thursday, in the third week of the U.S. District Court trial, Marcus, who worked on a sanitation truck, said that in 1971 he was having trouble making ends meet on his \$7,800-a-year salary.

Marcus said he spoke to a friend, Daniel Kikkert of Island Park, a Republican who is now the party's executive leader, "to see if I could get a raise so I could bring some decent money home."

"About a month and a half later, I saw there was a raise in my paycheck," Marcus said, an increase from \$7,870 to \$8,208.

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