

SENATE RESOLUTION establishing a Select Committee on Science, Technology, Incubation and Entrepreneurship

WHEREAS, It is widely recognized that the path to prosperity and the economic recovery of New York State lies in job creation and in broadening economic choices and career opportunities for all citizens, and that achieving these goals can be accelerated by the enhancement of the state's innovation and entrepreneurial spirit via the growth and development of business incubator programs and other entrepreneurial and economic and business development programs; and

WHEREAS, The concept of business incubation and business development programs originated in New York in 1959 when Joseph Mancuso opened the Batavia Industrial Center in a Batavia factory building, a successful concept that has since spread from New York throughout the country and the world, to the extent that there are now an estimated 1,400 incubators in North America, and 7,000 in the world; and

WHEREAS, Building upon this high-level profile and demonstration of expertise, an incubator from Syracuse, New York, was named 2012 Incubator of the Year by the 1,900 international members of the National Business Incubator Association; and

WHEREAS, The goals and purposes of the State's approximately forty business incubation programs remain what they were from that start in Batavia - to develop successful and financially stable firms capable of economic expansion and job creation by providing a comprehensive array of entrepreneurial and business supports, resources, and services tailored to the needs of individual business entities being incubated in an environment of entrepreneurial innovation and thereby to stimulate the entrepreneurial energies of the communities in which they are located, and demonstrate them to be attractive places to start and invest in new businesses; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that successful business incubation programs can often rise above current conditions of a regional economy, but such success can be stymied by various endemic barriers that stifle the ability of an incubator to fulfill its mission and achieve maximum job creation and economic impact; and

WHEREAS, The path to develop a small business and innovation economy in New York is aided by many means and strategies including strengthening of current incubator operations and development of new ones, expanding incentives and developing a full array of integrated entrepreneurship programs including enhancing scientific and technology innovation via incubators and other free-standing entrepreneurial development programs; and

WHEREAS, The Senate also seeks to expand access and opportunity to entrepreneurial programs for all groups including many marginalized by current programs such as veterans, disabled individuals, individuals who are minorities and women, using collaborations with several state agencies and non-state sponsors; and

WHEREAS, The Senate looks to increase collaboration by and with the State's academic institutions, private foundations, and municipalities, provide greater access to capital markets, and fully utilize the expertise of state and national incubator organizations including the Business Incubator Association of New York (BIANYS), and the National Business Incubator Association (NBIA); and

WHEREAS, The Senate urges the development and dissemination of "best practices" regimes for use by incubators and other entrepreneurship programs and their member companies, and other entrepreneurial and economic development programs; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that an open forum is needed to properly

ascertain the current and future needs of our state's incubation and entrepreneurship programs and help these programs develop to their maximum potential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a Select Committee on Science, Technology, Incubation and Entrepreneurship is hereby established, to conduct meetings, conferences, examinations, and public hearings, to gather information and make legislative proposals, reports, and recommendations, and to provide outreach to and interaction with private and public organizations that provide incubation, innovation, and entrepreneurship programs, and to make recommendations on efforts to strengthen entrepreneurial and job creation including related legislative proposals and resolutions before the State Legislature in such areas; all with the aim of growing the spirit of enterprise and innovation in New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Select Committee shall consist of eleven Senators, to be appointed by the Majority Coalition leaders, pursuant to membership composition as set forth under Senate Rule VIII; and be it further

RESOLVED, The chairperson of such committee shall be appointed by the Majority Coalition leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That such committee shall have the same authority as committees constituted under Article 4 of the Legislative Law and Senate Rule VIII.