

STATE OF NEW YORK

6321

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 4, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT in relation to requiring the Empire State development corporation in consultation with the state university of New York, the city university of New York, public housing authorities and the commission on independent colleges and universities to study the economic impact of optimizing kitchen incubators in New York state

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that in
2 order to improve the economic opportunities for its citizens and entre-
3 preneurs, it must use the established capabilities of its university
4 systems and our public housing authorities to offer space and resources
5 to the next generation of food manufacturing businesses.

6 It has been documented that the chief obstacle for start-up food manu-
7 facturing businesses is their inability to access affordable commercial
8 kitchen space. Currently all over the state, there are only a few kitch-
9 en incubators facing high demand and unable to meet the needs of the
10 many potential start-up businesses.

11 Kitchen incubators are valuable resources for New York state as it
12 moves to promote more job development, business development and
13 increased tax revenues.

14 In New York city alone, there are more than 900 food firms, with over
15 16,000 employees and another 2,500 who are self-employed. This has been
16 viewed as evidence of entrepreneurs' intent on developing their food
17 manufacturing ideas into full scale production capabilities and fully
18 functional business entities.

19 Minority and immigrant populations are growing significantly through-
20 out the state and so are their number in entrepreneurship activities,
21 including in the development of foods from their native place of origin

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 and this creates growing demand for such foods by increasing minority
2 and immigrant communities.

3 Kitchen incubators housed at select college campuses and our public
4 housing authorities throughout New York state and New York city will
5 help develop new entrepreneurs and increase the economic benefits of
6 such activities for the entire state.

7 However, New York must do more to propel these business start-ups and
8 potential manufacturers into full scale operations and should move to
9 allow its university systems to expand their regional economic catalyst
10 activities to serve entrepreneurs looking to enter the food manufactur-
11 ing sector.

12 § 2. For purposes of this act, the term "kitchen incubator" shall mean
13 an affordable small space with shared ovens, ranges, industrial mixers
14 and other commercial kitchen equipment, to be rented by entrepreneurs to
15 assist them in the development and/or manufacturing of food products for
16 commercial purposes.

17 § 3. a. The Empire State Development Corporation, in consultation with
18 the state university of New York, the city university of New York,
19 public housing authorities and the Commission on Independent Colleges
20 and Universities and groups selected by the Empire State Development
21 Corporation, shall study and examine the potential economic impact for
22 optimizing kitchen incubators in New York state including establishing
23 and/or expanding such opportunities on the state university of New York
24 campuses, the city university of New York campuses, and at public and
25 private institutions of higher learning.

26 b. The study conducted pursuant to this section shall evaluate the
27 impact of such optimization on entrepreneurship efforts in growing
28 minority and immigrant populations.

29 c. The Empire State Development Corporation shall create a report
30 containing recommendations for the creation, funding and future expan-
31 sion of kitchen incubators throughout the state at public and private
32 institutions for higher learning and public housing authorities; and
33 increasing entrepreneurial success in the culinary industry, by provid-
34 ing comprehensive advisory and business development services along with
35 access to facilities and equipment in a co-working environment conducive
36 to collaboration, networking and mentorship.

37 d. The report compiled by the Empire State Development Corporation
38 pursuant to subdivision c of this section shall be submitted to the
39 governor and the legislature not later than 270 days after the effective
40 date of this act.

41 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.