

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8323

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

June 2, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SANDERS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to expanding the small business mentoring program

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

1 Section 1. Section 1265-b of the public authorities law, as added by  
2 chapter 206 of the laws of 2010, paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of subdivi-  
3 sion 1 as amended and subdivision 7 as added by chapter 574 of the laws  
4 of 2023, is amended to read as follows:

5 § 1265-b. Metropolitan transportation authority small business mentor-  
6 ing program. 1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context  
7 requires otherwise: (a) "authority" means the metropolitan transporta-  
8 tion authority and its subsidiaries consisting of the Long Island rail  
9 road company, Metro-North commuter railroad company, metropolitan subur-  
10 ban bus authority, Staten Island rapid transit operating authority, MTA  
11 bus, MTA capital construction company, and first mutual transportation  
12 assurance company, and its affiliates consisting of the New York City  
13 transit authority, triborough bridge and tunnel authority, and Manhattan  
14 and Bronx surface transit operating authority;

15 (b) [~~"chairman"~~] "chair" means the [~~chairman~~] chair of the authority  
16 and its subsidiaries and affiliates;

17 (c) "small business" means a business [~~in the construction trades~~]  
18 that performs contracts for construction or related services which (i)  
19 is independently owned and operated; (ii) has annual revenues not  
20 exceeding a fiscal limitation of ten million dollars or such lesser  
21 amount as established by the authority pursuant to these provisions; and  
22 (iii) meets additional criteria as otherwise established by the [~~chair-~~  
23 ~~man~~] chair in consultation with the members of the MTA small business  
24 mentoring program advisory committee. The chair of the committee shall  
25 be the chief diversity officer of the MTA. [~~The~~] With respect to firms

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

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1 in the construction trades, the authority shall establish a detailed  
2 definition in general and specific to different segments of the  
3 construction industry to the extent necessary to reflect differing char-  
4 acteristics of such segments based on the criteria used by the United  
5 States small business administration for loans to small businesses as  
6 set forth in Sections 121.301 through 121.305, or for awarding govern-  
7 ment procurements as set forth in Sections 121.401 through 121.413, of  
8 Subpart A of Part 121 of Chapter I of Title 13 of the Code of Federal  
9 Regulations as amended, and such other criteria as determined by the  
10 authority;

11 (d) "small business mentoring program" is a program established by the  
12 authority pursuant to these provisions to provide small businesses  
13 accepted into the program with the opportunity:

14 (i) for up to five years, to compete for and, where awarded, to  
15 perform certain authority [~~public work~~] contracts for public work or  
16 related services to be designated by the authority for inclusion in this  
17 program under this subparagraph, with the assistance of an authority-  
18 provided mentor, which shall be a firm competitively selected by the  
19 authority that has extensive construction management and mentoring expe-  
20 rience, with the mentor to provide the small business with advice and  
21 assistance in competing for and managing authority [~~public work~~]  
22 contracts for public work or related services; and

23 (ii) for a small business mentoring program participant which the  
24 authority has determined has successfully completed the program under  
25 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, for up to five additional years, (A)  
26 additional opportunities to compete with other designated small busi-  
27 nesses in the program for certain [~~public work~~] contracts for public  
28 work or related services to be designated for inclusion under this  
29 subparagraph and, where awarded, to perform such authority [~~public work~~]  
30 contracts for public work or related services, with the further assist-  
31 ance of an authority-provided mentor, which shall be a firm competitive-  
32 ly selected by the authority that has extensive construction management  
33 and mentoring experience, with the mentor to provide the small business  
34 with advice and technical assistance in competing for and managing  
35 authority [~~public work~~] contracts for public work or related services,  
36 and (B) authority-provided assistance, as determined by the authority,  
37 for such a small business to obtain bonding for public work contracts  
38 that are competitively awarded pursuant to provisions of law other than  
39 this section.

40 (e) "small business mentoring program contract" means a non-federally  
41 funded, unless authorized by the applicable federal funding agency,  
42 authority [~~public work~~] contract for public work or related services  
43 designated by the authority, in an estimated amount of not more than one  
44 million five hundred thousand dollars for contracts under subparagraph  
45 (i) of paragraph (d) of this subdivision and five million dollars for  
46 contracts under subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of this subdivision,  
47 for which bids or proposals are to be invited and accepted only from  
48 businesses that are enrolled in the small business mentoring program and  
49 have been selected by the authority to compete for the contract.

50 2. Small business mentoring program. (a) Pursuant to these provisions,  
51 the authority may establish a small business mentoring program. In  
52 connection therewith, the authority may determine the criteria pursuant  
53 to which a small business shall be eligible for and selected to partic-  
54 ipate in the program under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (d)  
55 of subdivision one of this section, the number of participants to  
56 participate in each such components of the program, the criteria for the

1 competitive selection of the firms that will provide small businesses  
2 with mentoring services, the assignment of a mentor to a specific small  
3 business in the small business mentoring program, and the funding for  
4 the program.

5 (b) Under the small business mentoring program, the ~~[chairman]~~ chair  
6 or the ~~[chairman's]~~ chair's designee is authorized, notwithstanding any  
7 other provision of law:

8 (i) to designate which eligible ~~[public-work]~~ contracts for public  
9 work or related services shall be small business mentoring program  
10 contracts under subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (d) of subdivi-  
11 sion one of this section, respectively;

12 (ii) to establish standards for qualifying small business mentoring  
13 program participants to compete for a small business mentoring program  
14 contract, provided that no less than three qualified small businesses in  
15 the program must submit responsive offers to perform the contract;

16 (iii) to determine when bids or proposals for a small business mentor-  
17 ing program contract should be restricted to small business mentoring  
18 program participants which, prior to the receipt of bids or proposals,  
19 have been qualified by the authority for such competition;

20 (iv) to competitively select, designate and contract with one or more  
21 experienced construction management firms that, under the general super-  
22 vision of the authority, will provide mentoring services to the small  
23 businesses participating in the small business mentoring program, and to  
24 assign such mentors one or more designated small businesses participat-  
25 ing in the program;

26 (v) for small business mentoring program contracts, except as set  
27 forth herein, to waive requirements for the solicitation and award of a  
28 ~~[public-work]~~ contract for public work or related services pursuant to  
29 sections twelve hundred nine, twelve hundred sixty-five-a and twenty-  
30 eight hundred seventy-nine of this chapter and any other provision of  
31 law;

32 (vi) to assist only small business mentoring program participants that  
33 have been awarded small business mentoring program contracts to obtain  
34 any surety bond or contract of insurance required of them in connection  
35 with such contract only notwithstanding any provision of section two  
36 thousand five hundred four of the insurance law to the contrary; and

37 (vii) for small businesses that have been accepted into the small  
38 business mentoring program under subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of  
39 subdivision one of this section, in addition to the benefits of such  
40 program and notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide tech-  
41 nical assistance in obtaining bid, payment and performance bonding for  
42 authority public work contracts that are not small business mentoring  
43 program contracts, for which the small business is otherwise qualified.

44 3. Withdrawal of designation of small business mentoring program  
45 contracts. (a) If the total number of qualified small business mentoring  
46 program participants that respond to a competition and are considered  
47 capable of meeting the specifications and terms of the invitation to  
48 compete is less than three, or if the ~~[chairman]~~ chair or the ~~[chair-~~  
49 ~~man's]~~ chair's designee determines that acceptance of the best offer  
50 will result in the payment of an unreasonable price, the authority may  
51 reject all offers and withdraw the designation of the contract as a  
52 small business mentoring program contract.

53 (b) If the authority withdraws the designation of contract as a small  
54 business mentoring program contract, the firms, if any, that made offers  
55 shall be notified. Invitations to compete containing the same or rewrit-

ten specifications and terms shall then be re-issued as a small business mentoring program contract for one or more additional contract period.

4. ~~[Construction manager mentors]~~ Mentors. A mentor shall provide services and assistance to a small business as designated by the authority, which may include the following: (a) provide business training in the skills necessary to operate a successful business that performs contracts for construction ~~[business]~~ or related services and to compete for and perform a ~~[public work]~~ contract for public work or related services;

(b) provide technical assistance to the small business to assess the outcome if the small business competes for but is not awarded a contract;

(c) if the small business mentoring program contract is awarded to the small business, provide guidance, advice and technical assistance to the small business in the performance of the contract;

(d) provide other technical assistance to the small business to facilitate learning, training and other issues which may arise.

5. The authority may delegate to the ~~[chairman]~~ chair or the ~~[chairman's]~~ chair's designee, the authority's responsibilities set forth herein.

6. The small business mentoring program contracts authorized by this legislation shall, for the initial year of the program, be in an aggregate amount of not less than ten million dollars, and shall not exceed one hundred million dollars, with the maximum amount in future years to be set by the ~~[chairman]~~ chair.

7. The authority shall submit a report, no later than September thirtieth, two thousand twenty-five, and annually thereafter, to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly regarding procurements made pursuant to this section. Such report shall include a description of each procurement made pursuant to this subdivision and the rationale for why the ~~[public work]~~ contract for public work or related services was selected as a small business mentoring program contract, information regarding the procurement process for each such mentoring program contract and the name or names of the small businesses that fulfilled the contract, the project identification number and a description for each such project performed pursuant to the contract, the contractual completion date for each contract, the status of each such project, the contract price, including executed modifications, whether a project received surety bond or insurance contract assistance pursuant to subparagraph (vi) of paragraph (b) of subdivision two of this section, the total dollar value of monies paid to minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises and disadvantaged business enterprises pursuant to this section itemized by year and including the total dollar values for the five years preceding the respective annual report's release date. Such report shall additionally identify the authority-provided ~~[construction manager]~~ mentors and describe their competitive selection process, describe the technical assistance and advice provided by the authority and the mentors to program participants, and describe the business training provided by such mentor. For annual reports, any new procurements and changes during the period covered by the report shall be identified separately.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that the amendments to section 1265-b of the public authorities law made by section one of this act shall not affect the repeal of such section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.