

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9285

## IN SENATE

February 25, 2026

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to the newspaper and broadcast media jobs program

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 492 of the economic development  
2 law, as amended by section 1 of part J of chapter 59 of the laws of  
3 2025, is amended and a new subdivision 14 is added to read as follows:

4 10. "Net employee increase" means an increase of at least one full-  
5 time employee between the average starting full-time employment and the  
6 average ending full-time employment of an eligible business entity or  
7 nonprofit organization, as defined by the department.

8 14. "Eligible nonprofit news media organization" means an organization  
9 that:

10 (a) is a public television or radio corporation as defined under  
11 section two hundred thirty-six of the education law or is organized and  
12 operated as a nonprofit organization exempt from state income tax under  
13 section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

14 (b) is in good standing with the New York secretary of state and all  
15 relevant state agencies; and

16 (c) meets the requirements of an "eligible business" and operates  
17 within an "eligible industry" as defined in this article and would  
18 otherwise be eligible for a newspaper and broadcast media jobs tax cred-  
19 it if not for its nonprofit status.

20 § 2. Section 496 of the economic development law, as added by section  
21 2 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 § 496. Powers and duties of the commissioner. 1. The commissioner  
24 shall promulgate regulations establishing [~~an~~] application [~~process~~]  
25 processes and eligibility criteria, that will be applied consistent with  
26 the purposes of this article, so as not to exceed the annual [~~cap~~] caps  
27 on tax credits and grants set forth in [~~section~~] sections four hundred

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

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1 ninety-five and four hundred ninety-nine of this article which, notwith-  
2 standing any provisions to the contrary in the state administrative  
3 procedure act, may be adopted on an emergency basis.

4 2. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the department of  
5 taxation and finance, develop a certificate of tax credit that shall be  
6 issued by the commissioner to eligible businesses. Such certificate  
7 shall contain such information as required by the department of taxation  
8 and finance. The commissioner shall also develop a grant award certifi-  
9 cate that shall be issued to eligible nonprofit news media organiza-  
10 tions. Such certificate shall specify the exact amount of the grant  
11 awarded.

12 3. The commissioner shall solely determine the eligibility of any  
13 applicant applying for entry into the program and shall remove any busi-  
14 ness entity or nonprofit organization from the program for failing to  
15 meet any of the requirements set forth in section four hundred ninety-  
16 three or four hundred ninety-eight of this article, or for failing to  
17 meet the requirements set forth in subdivision one of section four  
18 hundred ninety-four of this article or subdivision one of section five  
19 hundred of this article.

20 § 3. The economic development law is amended by adding four new  
21 sections 497, 498, 499 and 500 to read as follows:

22 § 497. Nonprofit news media jobs grant program. 1. There is hereby  
23 established in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the  
24 "nonprofit news media jobs formula grant fund".

25 2. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, monies in the fund  
26 shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible  
27 nonprofit news media organizations as provided in this article, in a  
28 manner equivalent to the application of tax credits to commercial media  
29 organizations, except that the grants shall be applied for the employ-  
30 ment of qualifying journalists at the eligible nonprofit news media  
31 organization.

32 3. Any unexpended balance remaining in the fund at the end of any  
33 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain avail-  
34 able for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

35 § 498. Grant eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a grant under  
36 this article, a nonprofit organization shall:

37 1. Be an eligible nonprofit news media organization as defined in  
38 section four hundred ninety-two of this article;

39 2. Operate predominantly in an eligible industry and be located within  
40 the state of New York;

41 3. Demonstrate with data on subscribers or digital traffic to have an  
42 audience that is at least thirty-three percent located within the state  
43 of New York over the previous calendar year; and

44 4. Demonstrate that the organization has been operating for at least  
45 one year prior to the year for which it is applying for a grant.

46 § 499. Nonprofit news media jobs grant. 1. A nonprofit organization  
47 that meets the eligibility requirements of section four hundred ninety-  
48 eight of this article, and meets any additional eligibility criteria as  
49 articulated in regulations established pursuant to this section, and  
50 demonstrates a net qualifying journalist employee increase, may be  
51 eligible to receive a grant equal to five thousand dollars per each  
52 full-time net employee increase as defined in section four hundred nine-  
53 ty-two of this article. A nonprofit organization may not receive in  
54 excess of twenty thousand dollars in grants under this program.

55 2. A nonprofit organization that meets the eligibility requirements of  
56 section four hundred ninety-eight of this article, and meets any addi-

1 tional eligibility criteria as articulated in regulations established  
2 pursuant to this section, may be eligible to claim a grant equal to  
3 fifty percent of annual wages of an eligible employee. The calculation  
4 of such a grant shall only be applied to up to fifty thousand dollars in  
5 wages paid annually per eligible employee. A nonprofit organization may  
6 not receive in excess of three hundred thousand dollars in grants under  
7 this program.

8 3. The total amount of grants awarded by the commissioner pursuant to  
9 this article may not exceed fifteen million dollars for each year the  
10 grants are available, plus any amount carried over from previous years.  
11 Within the total available balance of the nonprofit news media jobs  
12 formula grant fund in any fiscal year, fifty percent of grants shall be  
13 set-aside for eligible nonprofit organizations with one hundred or fewer  
14 employees. The remaining fifty percent of grants may be awarded to  
15 eligible nonprofit organizations of any size.

16 § 500. Grant application and approval process. 1. A nonprofit entity  
17 shall submit a complete application as prescribed by the commissioner.

18 2. The commissioner shall establish procedures and a timeframe for  
19 nonprofit organizations to submit applications. As part of the applica-  
20 tion, each organization shall:

21 (a) provide evidence in a form and manner prescribed by the commis-  
22 sioner of their eligibility as a nonprofit news media organization;

23 (b) provide documentation of tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3)  
24 of the Internal Revenue Code;

25 (c) agree to allow the department of labor to share its employer  
26 information with the department. However, any information shared as a  
27 result of this program shall not be available for disclosure or  
28 inspection under the state freedom of information law;

29 (d) allow the department and its agents access to any and all books  
30 and records the department may require to monitor compliance; and

31 (e) agree to provide any additional information required by the  
32 department relevant to this article.

33 3. After reviewing a nonprofit organization's completed final applica-  
34 tion and determining that the nonprofit organization meets the eligibil-  
35 ity criteria as set forth in this article and that the grant award would  
36 not cause the annual cap set forth in section four hundred ninety-nine  
37 to be exceeded, the department may issue to that nonprofit organization  
38 a grant award.

39 4. Grant performance audits shall be limited to verifying employment,  
40 audience and financial records. No state agency or official shall condi-  
41 tion, modify, or revoke grants based on editorial content, positions, or  
42 coverage decisions of recipient organizations.

43 5. No nonprofit organization or business entity may receive both a  
44 grant and tax credits under this article within the same annual award  
45 period.

46 § 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
47 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
48 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
49 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
50 completed on or before such effective date.