S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

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I N A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. CHRISTENSEN, SCHROEDER, LUPARDO, KOON, COLTON, GUNTHER, DenDEKKER, DelMONTE, REILLY, MAGNARELLI, ROBINSON, GALEF, JAFFEE, BURLING, BACALLES, MILLMAN, BARRON, FIELDS, SKARTADOS, CASTRO -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BALL, BARCLAY, CALHOUN, COOK, CORWIN, CROUCH, DUPREY, GABRYSZAK, JOHN, McENENY, MENG, PEOPLES-STOKES, PHEFFER, QUINN, RABBITT, SALADINO, SCOZZAFAVA, SWEENEY, TOWNSEND, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Small Business -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Small Business in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to directing the division for small business to maintain a small business portal on the department of economic development internet website

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subdivisions 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of section 134 of the economic development law, subdivision 7 as added by chapter 547 of the laws of 1976, subdivision 8 as amended and subdivision 11 as added by chapter 361 of the laws of 2009, subdivision 9 as amended by chapter 490 of the laws of 1993, subdivision 10 as added by chapter 543 of the laws of 2002, are amended and a new subdivision 12 is added to read as follows:

7. review pending legislation affecting small-businesses and report its findings to the commissioner; [and]

8. initiate and encourage small-business education programs in general and to coordinate with the functions of the office of general services an information and outreach program directed toward informing small-businesses in the state of procedures necessary for competing for state purchases and to coordinate with the functions of every state agency,

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

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department or authority described in section one hundred thirty-nine-g of the state finance law, pursuant to subdivision (b) of section one hundred thirty-nine-g of the state finance law, an information and outreach program directed toward informing small-businesses in the state of procedures necessary for competing for state contracts, including without limitation educating small contractors about surety bonding requirements on state contracts, and identifying resources available to such contractors in obtaining their first bond and in increasing their bonding capacity, including but not limited to the federal small business administration bond guarantee program[.];

9. the commissioner and the commissioners of agriculture and markets and the office of general services shall initiate and encourage small-business education programs and coordinate with the functions of the office of general services, pursuant to subdivision [(b)] SIX of section one hundred [sixty-one-b] SIXTY-THREE of the state finance law, an information and outreach program directed toward informing eligible businesses in the state of procedures necessary for competing for purchases of food products pursuant to SUBDIVISION FOUR OF section one hundred [seventy-four-a] SIXTY-FIVE of the state finance law and subdivision eight-a of section one hundred three of the general municipal law, and to coordinate with the functions of every state agency or department described in subdivision (b) of section one hundred thirty-nine-g of the state finance law, an information and outreach program directed toward informing eligible businesses in the state of procedures necessary for competing for contracts for the purchase of food products pursuant to SUBDIVISION FOUR OF section one hundred [seventy-four-a] SIXTY-FIVE of the state finance law and subdivision eight-a of section one hundred three of the general municipal law[.];

10. conduct a survey of all business incubators in the state and assess the need for additional incubator facilities to nurture the growth and development of small businesses[.];

11. provide assistance to small business in the state, and facilitate access to programs serving small business, to ensure that such businesses benefit, as needed, from technical, managerial, financial, and general business assistance; training; marketing; organization and personnel skill development; project management assistance; technology assistance; bond and insurance education assistance; and other business development assistance. In addition, either independently or in conjunction with other state agencies:

(a) develop a clearinghouse of information on programs and services provided by entities that may assist such businesses; and

(b) seek to maximize utilization by small businesses of available federal resources including but not limited to federal grants, loans, loan guarantees, surety bonding guarantees, technical assistance, and programs and services of the federal small business administration[.]; AND

12. MAINTAIN A SMALL BUSINESS PORTAL ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNET WEBSITE. SUCH PORTAL SHALL BE A ONE-STOP SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES. THE PORTAL SHALL PROVIDE EXISTING AND PROSPECTIVE SMALL BUSINESSES WITH INFORMATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE WITH AND PROVISION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS AND PERMIT RENEWALS, FINANCING, TAX EXEMPTIONS, RELOCATION AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION, LOCATING AND TRAINING EMPLOYEES, HEALTH AND BUSINESS INSURANCE, ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE, OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS ENTITIES AND ISSUES FACING VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES.

S 2. The opening paragraph of section 135 of the economic development law is designated subdivision 1 and a new subdivision 2 is added to read as follows:

2. ANY DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BOARD, BUREAU, COMMISSION OR OTHER AGENCY SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION SHALL ALSO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE, SERVICES AND DATA AS WILL ENABLE THE DIVISION FOR SMALL BUSINESS TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SUBDIVISION TWELVE OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR OF THIS ARTICLE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS WEB PORTAL AND THE PROVISION OF LINKS TO RELEVANT AGENCY WEBSITES.

S 3. The division for small business shall periodically assess the extent to which the small business web portal provided for in subdivision 12 of section 134 of the economic development law is serving the needs of existing and prospective owners and operators of small businesses, through such measures as user surveys, online feedback and soliciting input from the advisory board provided for in section 133 of the economic development law. Such division shall update the services offered through such portal to reflect additional needed services identified through such assessments.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law.