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

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2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

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Introduced by M. of A. ERRIGO, ALFANO, BALL, FINCH, GIGLIO, HAWLEY, KOLB, McKEVITT, TOWNSEND -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARRA, CROUCH, DUPREY, JORDAN, MOLINARO, SALADINO, SAYWARD, SPANO, WALKER, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the bright ideas rewarded program within the office of general services to solicit, review and reward citizen suggestions to improve the efficiency and economy of state government

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding two new sections 203-a and 203-b to read as follows:

S 203-A. BRIGHT IDEAS REWARDED PROGRAM. THE STATE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL HAVE POWER AND IT SHALL BE ITS DUTY: (A) TO FORMULATE, ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PLAN OR PLANS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BRIGHT IDEAS REWARDED PROGRAM, TO ENCOURAGE AND REWARD SUGGESTIONS BY CITIZENS TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND ECONOMY IN THE PERFORMANCE OF STATE GOVERNMENT; (B) TO APPOINT DEPARTMENTAL OR DIVISIONAL BOARDS OR COMMITTEES, FROM AMONG PERSONS NOMINATED THEREFOR BY THE RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY HEADS, WHICH SHALL ANALYZE AND REVIEW SUGGESTIONS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER SUCH PLAN OR PLANS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO THE AGENCY; (C) TO MAKE AND RENDER MERIT AWARDS TO CITIZENS NOMINATED TO RECEIVE THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUCH PLAN OR PLANS; AND (D) TO ADOPT AND PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE OPERATION OF ANY PLAN OR PLANS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS ARTICLE, THE CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF SUGGESTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION, THE METHOD OF THEIR SUBMISSION AND THE PROCEDURE FOR THEIR REVIEW, NOMINATIONS FOR MERIT AWARDS, AND THE KIND, CHARACTER AND VALUE OF SUCH AWARDS, AND SUCH OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE

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

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FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ARTICLE OR FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE PURPOSES THEREOF.

S 203-B. AWARDS. (A) THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL PRESENT THE CITIZEN RESPONSIBLE, A CASH AWARD OF NO LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE FIRST YEAR ANNUAL SAVINGS TO THE STATE REALIZED BY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH CITIZEN'S SUGGESTION.

(B) THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES SHALL SATISFY ITSELF THAT THE SAVINGS TO THE STATE ARE REAL AND NOT MERELY APPARENT, AND THAT THEY ARE NOT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, THE RESULT OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. A LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OR QUALITY OF THE SERVICE RENDERED;
2. REDUCED PASS-THROUGH ON TRANSFER EXPENDITURES;
3. RECEIPTS REALIZED IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED;
4. NONRECURRENCE OF EXPENDITURES WHICH WERE SINGLE OUTLAY, OR ONE-TIME EXPENDITURES, IN THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;
5. FAILURE TO REWARD DESERVING EMPLOYEES THROUGH PROMOTIONS, RECLASSIFICATION, AWARD OF MERIT SALARY INCREMENTS, OR SALARY INCREASES AUTHORIZED BY SALARY RANGE REVISIONS;
6. POSTPONEMENT OF NORMAL PURCHASES AND REPAIRS TO A FUTURE FISCAL YEAR;
7. STOCKPILING INVENTORIES IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR SO AS TO REDUCE REQUIREMENTS IN THE ELIGIBLE FISCAL YEAR;
8. SUBSTITUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDS OR ANY FUNDS WHICH ARE NOT STATE FUNDS FOR STATE APPROPRIATIONS;
9. UNREASONABLE POSTPONEMENT OF PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE UNTIL THE FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELIGIBLE FISCAL YEAR;
10. SHIFTING OF EXPENSES TO ANOTHER AGENCY, DEPARTMENT, COMMISSION, OR OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT;
11. ANY OTHER PRACTICE, EVENT, OR DEVICE WHICH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES DECIDES HAS CAUSED A DISTORTION WHICH MISREPRESENTS THAT A SAVINGS OR INCREASE IN LEVEL OF SERVICES HAS OCCURRED.

(C) THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES MAY CONSIDER BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO CONSIDERING AS LEGITIMATE SAVINGS THOSE REDUCTIONS IN EXPENDITURES MADE POSSIBLE BY SUCH ITEMS AS THE FOLLOWING:

1. REDUCTIONS IN OVERTIME;
2. ELIMINATION OF CONSULTANT FEES;
3. LESS TEMPORARY HELP;
4. IMPROVED METHODS OF COMMUNICATION;
5. IMPROVED SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES;
6. BETTER DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MANPOWER;
7. ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY TRAVEL;
8. ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY PRINTING AND MAILING;
9. ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY PAYMENTS FOR ADVERTISING, MEMBERSHIPS, DUES, AND SUBSCRIPTIONS;
10. ELIMINATION OF WASTE, DUPLICATION, AND OPERATIONS OF DOUBTFUL VALUE;
11. IMPROVED SPACE UTILIZATION;
12. PROVEN COST-REDUCTION TECHNIQUES;
13. ANY OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES AS REPRESENTING TRUE SAVINGS.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.