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

977

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. GUNTHER, LIFTON -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. JOHN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to creating rural New York smart sites within the rural revitalization program

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

Section 1. Statement of legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that many changes are shaping the economy of rural New York. Traditionally, this state's rural economy has been heavily dependent on farming and manufacturing which, in terms of employment, has steadily continued to decline. Recognizing this trend and the need for state industries to be competitive in the global market place, the legislature finds that rural New York must have greater access to information technologies thereby making it more competitive in the global marketplace and emerging industries. Rural areas of the state have had many barriers preventing sustainable economic growth. However, with information technologies and infrastructure slowly developing in the rural landscape, the digital divide that now exists shall be bridged, thereby bringing high paying jobs and growth to rural regions of the state. Therefore the legislature declares that to improve traditional industries and promote the development of new industry, increased penetration of information technology business into rural regions of the state is imperative and that rural New York smart sites are a necessary economic development tool to encourage such growth and job development.

S 2. Section 16-l of section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting the New York state urban development corporation act, is amended by adding a new subdivision 9 to read as follows:

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

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9. RURAL NEW YORK SMART SITES. (A) THE CORPORATION SHALL, WITHIN AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE EMPIRE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, DEVELOP RURAL NEW YORK SMART SITES IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES. RURAL NEW YORK SMART SITES SHALL BE TECHNOLOGY BASED SERVICE FACILITIES THAT SHALL EMPLOY TRAINED WORKERS WHO USE COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET TO PERFORM BUSINESS TASKS FOR THE GLOBAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

(B) THE CORPORATION, IN COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, SHALL DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY SMART SITES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES THAT ARE READY TO PARTNER WITH FIRMS USING COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET TO PERFORM INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY RELATED FUNCTIONS. RURAL SMART SITES SHALL OFFER A SINGLE PACKAGE OF TRAINED WORKERS, COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, A FACILITY WITH HIGH-SPEED BANDWIDTH, AND ACCESS TO A VARIETY OF STATE AND LOCAL INCENTIVES FOR ALL BUSINESS TENANTS AND INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

(I) BE COMMUNITY DRIVEN AND DIRECTED BY A LOCAL SMART SITE TEAM. EACH SMART SITE TEAM SHALL HAVE AS MEMBERS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF, ELECTED OFFICIALS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PARTNERS, HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, LOCAL COLLEGES AND TECHNOLOGY-BASED BUSINESS PARTNERS;

(II) WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER DESIGNATION BY THE CORPORATION, SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO AT LEAST TEN WORKERS WHO DEMONSTRATE BASIC TECHNOLOGY SKILLS IN A VARIETY OF WIDELY USED APPLICATION PROGRAMS, SOFT SKILL TRAINING SUCH AS CUSTOMER SERVICE AND WORK HABITS, BASIC INTERNET NAVIGATION AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THE FIRMS LOCATING IN THE SMART SITE;

(III) HAVE IDENTIFIED AT LEAST ONE FACILITY FOR SALE OR LEASE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, WITH A CAPACITY FOR AT LEAST TEN WORKERS, PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED, SERVED WITH HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS (T-1 OR GREATER) WORK STATIONS AND COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. A PLAN AND STRATEGY SHALL BE IN PLACE TO DELIVER THESE COMPONENTS WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF A BUSINESS'S DECISION TO LOCATE IN THE SMART SITE;

(IV) BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE SMART SITE SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE COMPUTER, DATA PROCESSING OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY. THROUGH USE OF THE INTERNET, BUSINESSES MAY PERFORM ACTIVITIES FOR A PARENT COMPANY OR CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH OTHER COMPANIES OR AGENCIES; AND

(V) OUTSOURCING MAY INCLUDE WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT, DATABASE DEVELOPMENT, DATA ENTRY, HELP DESK SUPPORT, SOFTWARE TESTING AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING. SUCH BUSINESSES SHALL BE RECRUITED FROM OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY OR AS A LOCAL EXPANSION OR STARTUP.

(C) THE CORPORATION SHALL ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMART SITE RESOURCES INCLUDING COMPUTER EQUIPMENT LEASES, CUSTOM FIT TRAINING, STATE JOB TAX AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS, ACCESSING STATE AND FEDERAL CONTRACTS, MARKETING AND TRADE SHOW PROMOTION EFFORTS.

S 3. This act shall take effect immediately.