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

5575--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 19, 2009

Introduced by Sens. STACHOWSKI, AUBERTINE, BRESLIN, DIAZ, FOLEY, C. JOHNSON, KRUEGER, THOMPSON, VALESKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT creating an economic development benefit task force; and providing for the repeal of such provisions upon expiration thereof

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

Section 1. The legislature finds and declares that in order for the state to emerge into the next decade as a strong economic power, it must revisit the successes and failures of the empire zone program. Due to the nearing expiration of the program it is imperative for the state and all relevant parties to come together and determine what are the best options for a new economic development benefit policy that will help make New York state's businesses be as competitive as possible on the national and world stage. In the creation of a new economic development benefit program the following issues must be reviewed:

(a) Identification of strategic industries;

(b) Roles of federal, state and local government in economic development;

(c) Business expansion and investment;

(d) Business retention;

(e) Business attraction;

(f) Innovation, commercialization and emerging business;

(g) Urban revitalization;

(h) Minority- and women-owned business enterprises;

(i) Examination of current programs and incentives;

(j) Review of best practices;

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

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(k) Proper incentives; and

(l) Metrics to measure the success of the state's economic development benefits.

S 2. (a) An economic development benefit task force is hereby created to conduct the examination described in section one of this act and recommend the best economic development benefit program for the state.

(b) The task force shall consist of 29 members, each shall be appointed for a term of one year, consisting of nine members appointed by the governor, six members from the temporary president of the senate, six members from the speaker of the assembly, two members from the minority leader of the senate and two members from the minority leader of the assembly. Such members shall be chosen from regional business organizations, business improvement districts, private sector organizations, non-profits, unions, universities, colleges and statewide business advocacy organizations. The commissioners of the departments of economic development, environmental conservation and labor, and the director of the New York state foundation for science, technology and innovation shall be ex-officio members. The governor shall designate the chairman and vice-chairman from among his or her appointees. Vacancies in the membership of the commission and among its officers shall be filled in the manner provided for original appointments.

(c) The task force may use employees at the department of economic development as it may deem necessary for the performance of its functions.

(d) The task force may meet within and without the state, shall hold public hearings, and shall have all the powers of a legislative committee pursuant to the legislative law.

(e) The members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this act.

(f) To the maximum extent feasible, the task force shall be entitled to request and receive and shall utilize and be provided with such facilities, resources, and data of any court, department, division, board, bureau, commission, or agency of the state or any political subdivision thereof as it may reasonably request to carry out properly its powers and duties pursuant to this act.

(g) The appointing authorities shall appoint the members of the economic development benefit task force on or before 30 days after this act shall have become a law and the task force shall convene its first meeting on or before 30 days thereafter.

(h) The task force shall issue a preliminary report to the governor and legislature of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations by the ninetieth day after this act shall take effect and a final report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations not later than the one hundred fiftieth day after this act shall take effect.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law and shall expire and be deemed repealed June 30, 2010.