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

2266

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

January 14, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. MORELLE, CYMBROWITZ, SWEENEY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. WEINSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to creating the business outreach center network assistance program

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

Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new article 9-B to read as follows:

ARTICLE 9-B

BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SECTION 216. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND OBJECTIVES.
217. BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS.
218. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

S 216. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND OBJECTIVES. THE LEGISLATURE FINDS THAT AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, THE "BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK", IS ONE OF A DOZEN NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MODELS THAT HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE "WORTHY OF STUDY AND REPLICATION". ACCORDINGLY, THE LEGISLATURE DECLARES ITS INTENT TO PROMOTE THE SUCCESS AND EXPANSION OF SMALL BUSINESS IN THE STATE AND THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE'S ECONOMY AS A PUBLIC PURPOSE BY FOSTERING THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS AND INCREASING STATE ASSISTANCE TO THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS (BOC) NETWORK, INCORPORATED, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION PERFORMING VITAL AND WORTHY STATE AND PUBLIC PURPOSES.

S 217. BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS. 1. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT A BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZED, WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED, TO PROVIDE DIRECT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK, INCORPORATED, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION, FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

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

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(A) TO ASSIST THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK IN SETTING UP, OR TO ASSIST THE CENTER IN HELPING LOCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR NEW ORGANIZATIONS TO SET UP ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS, IN GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF THE STATE THAT ARE WIDELY-SEPARATED FROM EACH OTHER BUT ARE IN NEED OF, AND WOULD LIKELY BENEFIT FROM, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH CENTER;

(B) TO ASSIST THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK IN PROVIDING AID FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ADDITIONAL BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS SO CREATED AS WELL AS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ITS PRESENTLY EXISTING AFFILIATED BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS; AND

(C) TO ASSIST THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK TO EXPAND THE CENTER'S COORDINATION OF NETWORKING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES AMONG ALL BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS.

2. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE MONIES, WITHIN AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, IN RESPONSE TO A COMMUNITY NEED FOR THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS NETWORK. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AND DESIGNATION OF SUCH BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTERS WHICH SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

(A) COMMUNITIES THAT ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY AND/OR SOCIALLY ISOLATED FROM THE MAINSTREAM ECONOMY;

(B) A COORDINATED NETWORK OF CLIENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS, REGIONAL LINKAGES, AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES;

(C) A MODEL THAT MAXIMIZES THE EFFICIENT USE OF SCARCE EXISTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES, ADDRESSES THE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR PRE-LOAN AND POST LOAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GROWING SMALL BUSINESS;

(D) FACILITATING ACCESS TO THE COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES, CONNECTING SMALL BUSINESS TO NEEDED INFORMATION AND CAPITAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

3. ASSISTANCE, SERVICES AND DATA AS WILL ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROPERLY CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES UNDER THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSIONER AND TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME, THE COMMISSIONER MAY REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES AND PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN OF THIS ARTICLE.

S 218. REPORTING REQUIREMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DIRECT TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IT PROVIDES TO THE BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER (BOC) NETWORK, INCORPORATED, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE AND REPORT TO WHAT EXTENT THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL MAKE AND FILE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR, TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE STATE'S FISCAL YEAR CONTAINING THE RESULTS OF SUCH MONITORING PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. SUCH ANNUAL REPORT SHALL CONTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE IF IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER NEW LEGISLATION TO FURTHER EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE IS WARRANTED.

S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.