

5214

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 14, 2011

Introduced by M. of A. KATZ, FINCH, SALADINO, OAKS, RAIA, BURLING --
Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CASTELLI -- read once and referred to
the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a high-tech employment and training program within the New York state foundation for science, technology and innovation

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

1 Section 1. Legislative findings and declaration. The legislature here-
2 by finds and declares that an appropriately skilled workforce is neces-
3 sary to ensure the creation and growth of high technology businesses in
4 New York. The introduction of new technologies in business and industry
5 is an ongoing, dynamic process which necessitates a system of training
6 and education that is responsive to constantly changing skill require-
7 ments.
8 Further, the legislature finds that technology has also changed the
9 manner in which training and education can be provided within a firm.
10 While the use of sophisticated computer based training is not new, the
11 cost of development of such applications results in limited access.
12 Using technology to create a more effective and cost efficient delivery
13 system for training and education services for firms in the state is
14 critical to foster the young, developing high-tech sector in the state
15 of New York.
16 S 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 209-u to
17 read as follows:
18 S 209-U. HIGH-TECH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM. 1. FOR PURPOSES OF
19 THIS SECTION:
20 (A) "OFFICE" SHALL MEAN THE NEW YORK STATE FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE,
21 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION.
22 (B) "HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY" SHALL MEAN THOSE INDUSTRIES WITH AN ABOVE
23 AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, AND ENGINEERING PERSONNEL

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

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1 AND THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF INNOVATIVE
2 AND NON-ROUTINE PRODUCTS SUCH AS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PROTOTYPE
3 DEVELOPMENT, AND SMALL-VOLUME PRODUCTION OF NEW AND CHANGING PRODUCTS.
4 THE INDUSTRY IS CHARACTERIZED BY BUSINESSES WHICH ARE DEVELOPING OR
5 OFFERING A TECHNOLOGY-BASED PRODUCT OR SERVICE, AND WHICH ARE ACTIVELY
6 CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED TO DEVELOP OR IMPROVE SUCH
7 PRODUCT OR SERVICE.

8 (C) "ELIGIBLE ENTITIES" SHALL MEAN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF
9 HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AND THE STATE
10 UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

11 2. THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE OFFICE A HIGH-TECH TRAINING
12 INITIATIVE (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE PROGRAM") TO PROVIDE FUNDING
13 FOR PROJECTS TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY AND FIRM-SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR BUSI-
14 NESSES IN HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES.

15 3. THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE SHALL:

16 (A) DEVELOP AN ANNUAL PLAN COMPATIBLE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRA-
17 TEGIC TRAINING ALLIANCE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION SIXTEEN-J OF THE
18 URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING TRAIN-
19 ING INITIATIVES UNDER THE PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH REGIONAL AND LOCAL
20 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES, CENTERS FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, THE
21 STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVEL-
22 OPMENT, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING THE CITY UNIVERSITY
23 OF NEW YORK AND THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, AND THE URBAN DEVELOP-
24 MENT CORPORATION. THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO THE
25 FOLLOWING:

26 (I) A STATEMENT OF PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES;

27 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH PROJECTS WILL BE IDEN-
28 TIFIED;

29 (III) SPECIFICATION OF CRITERIA TO BE USED TO EVALUATE PROJECT APPLI-
30 CATIONS;

31 (IV) IDENTIFICATION OF MEASURABLE OUTCOMES SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF INDI-
32 VIDUALS TRAINED, JOBS CREATED OR RETAINED, AND OTHER OBJECTIVE ECONOMIC
33 DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM; AND

34 (V) SPECIFICATION OF A MATCHING REQUIREMENT, EITHER CASH, IN-KIND, OR
35 BOTH, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN HALF THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT REQUEST.

36 (B) COORDINATE WITH THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF
37 LABOR, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW
38 YORK, AND OTHER PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS NEEDED TO
39 CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION; AND

40 (C) PROMOTE THE AWARENESS OF THE PROGRAM AND OTHER HIGH-TECH INITI-
41 ATIVES AMONG BUSINESSES, BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, AND REGIONAL AND LOCAL
42 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.

43 4. THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES FOR
44 PURPOSES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
45 OF:

46 (A) PROJECTS FOR OCCUPATION SPECIFIC TRAINING AND RETRAINING FOR
47 EMPLOYED OR UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN SKILLS REPRESENTED IN HIGH-TECH INDUS-
48 TRIES;

49 (B) PROJECTS TO TRAIN EMPLOYEES IN SMALL HIGH-TECH FIRMS USING ALTER-
50 NATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION SUCH AS DISTANCE LEARNING;

51 (C) COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS USING MULTIMEDIA AND INTERACTIVE
52 PROGRAMMING INCLUDING (I) GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO
53 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SUCH PROGRAMS; AND (II) FUNDING SUPPORT FOR BUSI-
54 NESSES TO ACQUIRE ACCESS TO SUCH PROGRAMS;

55 (D) PROGRAMS OF APPLIED LEARNING AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL OPERATED IN
56 PARTNERSHIP WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDING WORK-PREP

ACTIVITY PURSUANT TO SECTION THIRTY-SIX HUNDRED TWO-D OF THE EDUCATION LAW, SCHOOL-TO-WORK, AND OTHER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS OF YOUTH OF CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL FIELDS; AND

(E) INNOVATIVE PROJECTS TO INCREASE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF GRADUATES FROM POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS WHO ARE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES INCLUDING PROJECTS DIRECTED AT INCREASING ENROLLMENTS AND RETENTION OF MINORITY AND WOMEN STUDENTS INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTERS.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT TO BE FUNDED INCLUDING, AS APPROPRIATE, DETAILED INFORMATION ON:

(A) THE TYPE OF SKILLS TRAINING OR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY THAT WILL BE PROVIDED;

(B) THE TECHNOLOGIES TO BE USED TO DELIVER TRAINING;

(C) STRATEGIES TO DISSEMINATE THE TRAINING AND THE TRAINING TECHNOLOGY AMONG FIRMS;

(D) THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING JOB CREATION AND RETENTION;

(E) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES THAT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT BEYOND THE PERIOD OF THE INITIAL GRANT; AND

(F) THE AMOUNT OF ANY CASH OR IN-KIND MATCH USED TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT.

6. ALLOWABLE EXPENSES INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGIES AND SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF TRAINING TO EMPLOYEES OF SMALL HIGH TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS WHO MAY SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES.

7. ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER FIRST, TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER FIRST EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE A REPORT REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PROGRAM. SUCH REPORT SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

(A) A LIST OF CONTRACTS, GRANTS, OR AWARDS ISSUED TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND THE AMOUNT, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVE OF EACH CONTRACT, GRANT, OR AWARD;

(B) THE NAMES OF FIRMS SERVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF EACH FIRM;

(C) DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CURRICULAR MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED TO SUPPORT TRAINING IN SUCH FIRMS; AND

(D) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IDENTIFIED IN THE ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (A) OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS SECTION HAVE BEEN REACHED.

S 3. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.