STATE OF NEW YORK

3494--A

Cal. No. 271

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 27, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES, BARRON -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development -- ordered to a third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place on the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to evaluation and assistance to increase access to child care

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 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 section 53 to read as follows:

§ 53. Evaluation and assistance to increase access to child care. (1) The legislature hereby finds that access to quality child care is an important element of the state's economy for working families, and that child care providers comprise a large sector in New York state's economy. The legislature further finds that the potential for future growth in the state is often linked to the next generation's achievements. The ability to obtain such achievements are strengthened by the availability and adequacy of early childhood education. The legislature declares that it is crucial for the governor and legislature to obtain reliable, objective information about the economic benefits of investing in child care programs, specifically in low-income neighborhoods with pervasive poverty and high unemployment rates.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "economically distressed areas" shall mean areas as determined by the corporation meeting criteria indicative of economic distress, including high unemployment rate; high rate of employment change; percentages and numbers of low-income persons; per capita income and per capita real property wealth; and such other indicators of distress as the corporation shall determine. Economically distressed areas may

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

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include cities, municipalities, block numbering areas, and census tracts.

(b) "child care" shall mean any licensed, registered or regulated child care program as defined by section three hundred ninety of the social services law.

(3) The corporation, in collaboration with the office of children and family services, the office of temporary and disability assistance, and if practicable, local social services districts, shall identify a total of five economically distressed areas throughout the state to evaluate child care programs which are intended to serve the needs of low-income working families. In its evaluation, the corporation shall:

(a) determine the availability and capacity of child care programs throughout the state as well as the impact these businesses have on the economic development of the surrounding area;

(b) determine the financial obligations related to child care facing working families;

(c) determine the available financial resources for working families with children related to child care;

(d) determine the economic impact of child care on employed persons or persons in an educational program;

(e) determine the financial impact that lack of access to child care has on businesses and the impact that it has on worker retention, productivity and other appropriate factors;

(f) determine existing state resources available for businesses and employed persons to assist with child care costs; and

(g) determine what incentives exist for businesses to provide child care opportunities to their employees including on-site child care programs.

(4) Upon completion of the study as required by subdivision three of this section, the corporation, in collaboration with the office of children and family services, the office of temporary and disability assistance, and if practicable, local social services districts, shall identify and develop a strategy for the expansion and creation of child care programs in the five economically distressed areas through the various programs of the corporation. To the extent possible, the corporation shall also determine ways to incentivize businesses to create and expand the availability of child care programs. The corporation shall determine a strategy to include child care as a criteria component for existing and new economic development programs when feasible.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.