STATE OF NEW YORK

5719

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 14, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. KOLB, WALTER, PALMESANO, OAKS, RAIA, HAWLEY, BARCLAY, STEC, GIGLIO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to creating the innovators corps within the executive department to identify and encourage the growth of technology businesses in New York state

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 44-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 44-A

INNOVATORS CORPS

Section 945. Innovators corps; creation.

§ 945. Innovators corps; creation. 1. There is hereby created within the executive department a division to be known as the "innovators corps". Such division shall be a research group consisting of four primary members, appointed by the governor, who shall serve as traveling representatives, and additional staff as the governor and the primary members may deem necessary.

2. The four primary members shall have significant experience and education in various areas of business practice, as well as fluency in foreign languages. Such members shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

3. The purpose of the division shall be to identify high-tech industries which are well suited to particular regions of the state and to identify and target specific business entities within those industries which are ready and poised for expansion. The division will focus on ways to attract high-technology domestic and international businesses and jobs to New York state. The members of the division should also establish and maintain contacts and communications with high-tech businesses currently operating in this state for the purpose of encouraging

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

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and supporting those businesses which are looking to expand to do so in New York.

4. The division shall develop a list of business resources within New York state including:

(a) "shovel ready" sites;

(b) natural resources and energy;

(c) colleges and universities;

(d) tax incentives; and

(e) workforce.

5. The division shall attempt to conduct interviews and gather information from businesses which are down-sizing, closing, ceasing functions or operations or relocating outside of New York, to identify issues, causes and obstacles to success, including state laws, regulations and disincentives to economic development within this state.

6. The division shall receive appropriations sufficient to enable it to carry out its purposes and duties under this article, including travel expenses necessary to provide members with the opportunity for personal interaction with foreign business owners, in order to promote the benefits available to businesses in New York state.

7. The division shall prepare monthly reports to the governor and an annual report to the legislature. Each report shall include: businesses and industries that it has targeted; specific business development or expansion opportunities; job growth information; analysis and information elicited from businesses terminating or leaving the state; and areas identified where New York can improve its business climate.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the members of the innovators corps created pursuant to section one of this act shall be appointed no later than ninety days after such effective date.