STATE OF NEW YORK

7357

IN SENATE

January 21, 2020

Introduced by Sens. KAPLAN, AKSHAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the state administrative procedure act, in relation to designating a small business liaison

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

Section 1. The state administrative procedure act is amended by adding a new section 102-b to read as follows:

§ 102-b. Small business liaison. The departments of agriculture and markets, environmental conservation, labor, transportation, and taxation and finance shall designate an existing employee to serve as the liaison to small businesses regulated by such agency. The direct contact information of the small business liaison shall be prominently posted and easily accessible on the agency website. The small business liaison shall:

(a) serve as an initial primary contact for small businesses to contact with any inquiries;

(b) be equipped to provide small businesses with basic information on the agency and its regulations;

(c) help small businesses navigate the agency bureaucracy to identify and contact the appropriate staff person within the agency, either at the state or regional level, for more specific information pertaining to the small business;

(d) hear the concerns of small businesses, report those concerns to appropriate agency staff and offer possible solutions to such concerns;

(e) advocate within the agency on behalf of small businesses, and make recommendations to the agency head on matters affecting small businesses;

(f) initiate and encourage small business education and outreach programs on behalf of the agency, as appropriate;

(g) collaborate with the appropriate agency staff on any small business regulation guide pursuant to section one hundred two-a and any

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

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small business regulatory flexibility analysis pursuant to section two hundred two-b of this chapter; and

(h) coordinate his or her activities with the division for small business within the department of economic development, and the small business development center.

§ 2. On or before January 1, 2021, the small business liaison shall report to the department head the number of inquiries he or she has received from small businesses in 2020, and the department head shall determine whether a separate full-time employee will be needed for such position going forward and make any appropriate budget request to the governor and legislature for the ensuing fiscal year.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.