

STATE OF NEW YORK

3290

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. L. ROSENTHAL, LUPARDO, MAGNARELLI -- read once
and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establish-
ing regional technology development centers

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

1 Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new
2 section 361 to read as follows:

3 § 361. Regional technology development centers. 1. As used in this
4 section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

5 (a) "Regional technology development centers" or "centers" shall mean
6 any regional, not-for-profit corporation or other nonprofit organiza-
7 tion, association, or agency which is organized for the purpose of the
8 promotion, attraction, stimulation, development and expansion of science
9 and technology-oriented economic activity in a particular region of the
10 state or in one or more counties or cities, and which does not engage in
11 lobbying activities as a significant part of their overall functions.

12 (b) "In-kind services" shall mean the donation of quantifiable goods
13 and services including but not limited to professional services and
14 time, equipment, material and office space for use by a regional tech-
15 nology development center in furtherance of its stated purposes or
16 provided on behalf of the center to others for such purposes and for
17 which there is no monetary remuneration. Any such in-kind services must
18 have prior approval by the department to satisfy the matching require-
19 ment pursuant to this section.

20 2. (a) The department shall designate regional technology development
21 centers in each of the ten economic development regions throughout the
22 state. Centers shall be designated for a period not greater than ten
23 years through a competitive selection process.

24 (b) Competitive selection criteria shall include:

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

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1 (i) the degree and completeness of information contained in the
2 proposal;

3 (ii) the nature, relevance and importance of the proposed activities
4 to the region;

5 (iii) the anticipated economic benefits to the state and the region to
6 be derived from the proposed activities described in the proposal;

7 (iv) the degree to which the membership of the applicant organization
8 is representative of the region's business, industry, labor, academic
9 and government sectors, including strong representation of the high
10 technology private sector;

11 (v) the commitment of time and energy of the principals of the appli-
12 cant organization;

13 (vi) the operational readiness of the applicant organization to carry
14 out the activities described in the proposal; and

15 (vii) the applicant organization's prior experience and demonstrated
16 results in performing activities identical or similar to those identi-
17 fied in the proposal.

18 (c) There shall be no limit on the number of times centers may be
19 redesignated and if the department does not issue a timely, new request
20 for proposals before the end of any ten-year period, or is not able to
21 evaluate new proposals and make new selections by the end of the ten-
22 year designation, all contracts for the existing centers shall be in
23 effect until the end of the state fiscal year that follows the last year
24 of the center's designation during which time the department shall
25 complete its evaluation and redesignation process pursuant to this
26 section.

27 3. The department is hereby authorized to award grants on a compet-
28 itive basis, from such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose by
29 the legislature, to match funds expended by regional technology develop-
30 ment centers for the purposes set forth in this section and in accord-
31 ance with rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

32 4. Matching funds shall be provided only for purposes which are
33 related to the realization of the technological development potential of
34 a particular region of the state as determined by the department. Among
35 the activities for which matching funds may be provided are the follow-
36 ing:

37 (a) Sponsoring and conducting regional conferences and studies,
38 collecting and disseminating information and issuing periodic reports
39 relating to scientific and technological research, development and
40 education in the region;

41 (b) Preparing and periodically issuing a register of scientific and
42 technological research facilities in the region;

43 (c) Assisting small and emerging science and technology-oriented busi-
44 nesses within the region including providing assistance in applying for
45 federal or state research grants or procurement contracts and dissem-
46 inating information on the availability of such grants and contracts;

47 (d) Collecting and disseminating information on financial, technical,
48 marketing, management and other services available to small and emerging
49 science and technology-oriented businesses within the region and arrang-
50 ing access to such services on a free or for-hire basis from universi-
51 ties, private for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations;

52 (e) Providing technical assistance including management, marketing and
53 financial packaging assistance to, and collecting and disseminating
54 information regarding innovations for the benefit of, inventors inter-
55 ested in having their ideas developed and commercialized and entrepre-
56 neurs interested in the commercialization of new products and processes;

1 (f) Supporting university-industry collaboration in applied research
2 and technology based economic development, the promotion of incubator
3 facilities and the generation or brokering of investment capital to
4 support regional new enterprise development;

5 (g) Assisting in the development of a globally competitive technology
6 development strategy for the region;

7 (h) Contributing information to any statewide database, which identi-
8 fies resources available from colleges, universities and technical
9 service providers and which provides information, including venture
10 capital sources and labor market statistics, of interest to and for use
11 by entrepreneurs and technology-oriented businesses;

12 (i) Projecting the need for the technical and professional workforce
13 within the region and assisting others in planning for projected dislo-
14 cations and retraining;

15 (j) Assisting the department in identifying and contacting eligible
16 applicants, as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section
17 two hundred twenty-four of this chapter, and sponsoring, in conjunction
18 with the conferences, seminars, counseling sessions and other outreach
19 efforts aimed at improving the competitive position of applicants in
20 international markets by promoting exporting;

21 (k) Conducting such other appropriate activities as may be established
22 by the department for the purpose of realizing the technological devel-
23 opment potential of the region served by the applicant; and

24 (l) Performing activities and delivering services pursuant to subpara-
25 graph (v) of paragraph (a) of subdivision five of this section.

26 5. (a) Regional technology development centers shall administer the
27 New York manufacturing extension partnership program, also referred to
28 as the industrial technology extension service program, which shall
29 provide technical and management assistance to manufacturing companies
30 within the state for the following purposes:

31 (i) to improve the global competitiveness and increase the market
32 share of viable New York state industries and firms through increased
33 knowledge of new technologies and other innovations;

34 (ii) to assist industrial firms through consulting and training activ-
35 ities with the introduction of improved management and production pro-
36 cesses in order to enhance their productivity and competitiveness;

37 (iii) to provide industrial effectiveness field services pursuant to
38 article seven of this chapter;

39 (iv) to assist in the retention and expansion of industrial firms and
40 employment in New York state;

41 (v) to administer activities and services with all federal manufactur-
42 ing extension partnership program funds received by the state pursuant
43 to Public Law 110-69 which shall qualify as matching funds pursuant to
44 subdivision three of this section; and

45 (vi) to communicate industrial needs to universities and others,
46 brokering joint university-industry investigations to aid industry, and
47 assisting in the provision of productivity and growth improvements to
48 mature industries.

49 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, grants made by the department
50 pursuant to this section shall be matched on a fifty percent basis by
51 the regional technology development center and up to fifty percent of
52 such match may be of in-kind services as approved by the department.

53 (c) The department may establish such requirements as it deems appro-
54 priate for the format and content of applications for matching grants
55 pursuant to this subdivision and shall set reasonable deadlines for the
56 submission of applications for such support.

1 (d) The department may select from competing applications those which
2 it judges to be of greatest benefit to the welfare of the people of the
3 state and may approve or reject any or all of the competing applica-
4 tions. The department shall notify all applicants of the approval or
5 rejection of their applications in a timely fashion.

6 (e) The department shall require periodic reports and other such docu-
7 ments and information as it deems necessary to monitor and review the
8 performance of each regional technology development center awarded a
9 grant.

10 6. The department shall submit a report pursuant to subdivision thir-
11 ty-seven-b of section one hundred of this chapter to the governor, the
12 temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly,
13 detailing the activities that each regional technology development
14 center has undertaken during the reporting year. Such reports shall
15 include but not be limited to, the composition of the center, the amount
16 of the grant awarded and the match provided, the duties and obligations
17 required by the department, a description of the center's activities and
18 accomplishments, the number of jobs created or retained, the number and
19 types of companies assisted, the increase in the number of new-to-market
20 and new-to-export businesses by employment size, the increase in the
21 value of export sales by business employment size, and any other perti-
22 nent information as determined by the department.

23 7. To the fullest extent permitted under subdivision two of section
24 eighty-seven of the public officers law, all information regarding the
25 financial condition, marketing plans, manufacturing processes,
26 production costs, productivity rates, customer lists, or other trade
27 secrets and proprietary information of a person or entity requesting
28 assistance from the department pursuant to this section which is submit-
29 ted by such person or entity to the department in connection with an
30 application for assistance or with a productivity assessment or feasi-
31 bility study, shall be confidential and exempt from public disclosure.

32 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.