STATE OF NEW YORK

7415--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

May 7, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to requiring the Empire State development corporation in consultation with the state university of New York, the city university of New York and the commission on independent colleges and universities to study the economic impact of optimizing kitchen incubators in New York state

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that in order to improve the economic opportunities for its citizens and entrepreneurs, it must use the established capabilities of its university systems and our public housing authorities to offer space and resources to the next generation of food manufacturing businesses.

It has been documented that the chief obstacle for start-up food manufacturing businesses is their inability to access affordable commercial kitchen space. Currently all over the state, there are only a few kitchen incubators facing high demand and unable to meet the needs of the many potential start-up businesses.

Kitchen incubators are valuable resources for New York state as it moves to promote more job development, business development and increased tax revenues.

In New York city alone, there are more than 900 food firms, with over 16,000 employees and another 2,500 who are self-employed. This has been viewed as evidence of entrepreneurs' intent on developing their food manufacturing ideas into full scale production capabilities and fully functional business entities.

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

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Minority and immigrant populations are growing significantly throughout the state and so are their number in entrepreneurship activities, including in the development of foods from their native place of origin and this creates growing demand for such foods by increasing minority and immigrant communities.

Kitchen incubators housed at select college campuses and our public housing authorities throughout New York state and New York city will help develop new entrepreneurs and increase the economic benefits of such activities for the entire state.

However, New York must do more to propel these business start-ups and potential manufacturers into full scale operations and should move to allow its university systems to expand their regional economic catalyst activities to serve entrepreneurs looking to enter the food manufacturing sector.

§ 2. For purposes of this act, the term "kitchen incubator" shall mean an affordable small space with shared ovens, ranges, industrial mixers and other commercial kitchen equipment, to be rented by entrepreneurs to assist them in the development and/or manufacturing of food products for commercial purposes.

§ 3. a. The Empire State Development Corporation, in consultation with the state university of New York, the city university of New York, public housing authorities and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities and groups selected by the Empire State Development Corporation, shall study and examine the potential economic impact for optimizing kitchen incubators in New York state including establishing and/or expanding such opportunities on the state university of New York campuses, the city university of New York campuses, and at public and private institutions of higher learning.

b. The study conducted pursuant to this section shall evaluate the impact of such optimization on entrepreneurship efforts in growing minority and immigrant populations.

c. The Empire State Development Corporation shall create a report containing recommendations for the creation, funding and future expansion of kitchen incubators throughout the state at public and private institutions for higher learning and public housing authorities; and increasing entrepreneurial success in the culinary industry, by providing comprehensive advisory and business development services along with access to facilities and equipment in a co-working environment conducive to collaboration, networking and mentorship.

d. The report compiled by the Empire State Development Corporation pursuant to subdivision c of this section shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature not later than 270 days after the effective date of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.