

STATE OF NEW YORK

8915

IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. BURDICK -- read once and referred to the Committee on People with Disabilities

AN ACT in relation to directing the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, in conjunction with New York State Industries for the Disabled, to establish a voluntary training and certification program for employers that have taken the EmployAbility Pledge; and making an appropriation therefor

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

1 Section 1. a. The New York State Office for People With Developmental
2 Disabilities (OPWDD), in conjunction with New York State Industries for
3 the Disabled (NYSID), shall establish a voluntary training and certifi-
4 cation program for employers that have taken the EmployAbility Pledge
5 and that support an inclusive workplace. The program shall promote tech-
6 niques and strategies employers can implement to increase diversity in
7 the employer's workforce through the hiring of individuals with disabil-
8 ities and to increase diversity in the selection of the employer's
9 supply chains by working with companies that employ individuals with
10 disabilities.

11 b. OPWDD will contract with NYSID to develop the content of the
12 program and to manage the program. In developing the content of the
13 program, NYSID shall work with vendors who provide services to or
14 employee individuals with disabilities including, but not limited to
15 multimedia company Our Ability. As part of the program, NYSID will
16 develop a series of online/virtual training programs for employers for
17 key components related to training employers on topics including:

18 (i) sensitivity training on disability disclosure;
19 (ii) providing reasonable accommodations to employees with disabili-
20 ties;
21 (iii) tax credits for employers who employ employee individuals with disabil-
22 ities;
23 (iv) website accessibility;
24 (v) interviewing individuals with disabilities and appropriate job
25 opening advertisements;

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

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1 (vi) workplace inclusion of individuals with disabilities;
2 (vii) supply chain diversity;
3 (viii) the role of job coaches in assisting employers; and
4 (ix) corporate partnership training for employers for purposes of
5 qualifying for preferred source procurement status.
6 c. NYSID may institute a reasonable fee for the training in an amount
7 to be agreed upon by NYSID and OPWDD.
8 § 2. The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is here-
9 by appropriated to the New York State Office for People With Develop-
10 mental Disabilities out of any moneys in the state treasury in the
11 general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise
12 appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carry-
13 ing out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the
14 audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved
15 by the head of the New York State Office for People With Developmental
16 Disabilities in the manner prescribed by law.
17 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
18 have become a law.