

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8915--A

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 19, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. BURDICK, MEEKS, SEAWRIGHT, ABBATE, SANTABARBARA, ENGLEBRIGHT, GALLAGHER, J. M. GIGLIO, DAVILA -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COOK -- read once and referred to the Committee on People with Disabilities -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT in relation to directing the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities 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) shall establish a voluntary training and certif-  
3 ication program for employers that have taken the EmployAbility Pledge  
4 and that support an inclusive workplace. The program shall promote tech-  
5 niques and strategies employers can implement to increase diversity in  
6 the employer's workforce through the hiring of individuals with disabil-  
7 ities and to increase diversity in the selection of the employer's  
8 supply chains by working with companies that employ individuals with  
9 disabilities.
- 10 b. OPWDD will develop and manage the program. As part of the program,  
11 OPWDD will develop a series of online/virtual training programs for  
12 employers for key components related to training employers on topics  
13 including:
- 14 (i) sensitivity training on disability disclosure;  
15 (ii) providing reasonable accommodations to employees with disabili-  
16 ties;  
17 (iii) tax credits for employers who employ individuals with disabil-  
18 ities;  
19 (iv) website accessibility;  
20 (v) interviewing individuals with disabilities and appropriate job  
21 opening advertisements;  
22 (vi) workplace inclusion of individuals with disabilities;  
23 (vii) supply chain diversity;

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

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1 (viii) the role of job coaches in assisting employers; and  
2 (ix) corporate partnership training for employers for purposes of  
3 qualifying for preferred source procurement status.

4 § 2. The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) is here-  
5 by appropriated to the New York State Office for People With Develop-  
6 mental Disabilities out of any moneys in the state treasury in the  
7 general fund to the credit of the state purposes account, not otherwise  
8 appropriated, and made immediately available, for the purpose of carry-  
9 ing out the provisions of this act. Such moneys shall be payable on the  
10 audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers certified or approved  
11 by the head of the New York State Office for People With Developmental  
12 Disabilities in the manner prescribed by law.

13 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall  
14 have become a law.