STATE OF NEW YORK

8915--B

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 -- again reported from said committee with amendments, 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

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

Section 1. a. The New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) shall establish a voluntary training and certification program for employers that have taken the EmployAbility Pledge and that support an inclusive workplace. The program shall promote techniques and strategies employers can implement to increase diversity in the employer's workforce through the hiring of individuals with disabilities and to increase diversity in the selection of the employer's supply chains by working with companies that employ individuals with disabilities.

b. OPWDD will develop and manage the program. As part of the program, OPWDD will develop a series of online/virtual training programs for employers for key components related to training employers on topics including:

(i) sensitivity training on disability disclosure;

(ii) providing reasonable accommodations to employees with disabilities;

(iii) tax credits for employers who employee individuals with disabilities;

(iv) website accessibility;

(v) interviewing individuals with disabilities and appropriate job opening advertisements;

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

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(vi) workplace inclusion of individuals with disabilities;
(vii) supply chain diversity;
(viii) the role of job coaches in assisting employers; and
(ix) corporate partnership training for employers for purposes of qualifying for preferred source procurement status.

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