STATE OF NEW YORK

6960

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 20, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establishing the relocated worker grant program

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

Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new article 26 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 26

RELOCATED WORKER GRANT PROGRAM

Section 480. Definitions.

481. Relocated worker grant program.

§ 480. Definitions. As used in this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "Relocated worker" means an individual who:

(a) is a full-time employee of a business;

(b) becomes a full-time resident of this state on or after January first, two thousand twenty-three; and

(c) relocates to an eligible location designated under this article.

2. "Qualifying expenses" means actual costs a relocated worker incurs for one or more of the following that are necessary to perform their employment duties:

(a) relocation to this State;

(b) computer software and hardware;

(c) broadband access or upgrade; and

(d) membership in a co-working or similar space.

3. "Eligible location" means every city with a population of more than ninety thousand but less than three hundred thousand, as of the effective date of this subdivision.

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

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§ 481. Relocated worker grant program. 1. The empire state development corporation shall design and implement the relocated worker grant program, which shall include a certification process to certify relocated workers and certify qualifying expenses for a reimbursement grant under this section including but not limited to requiring:

(a) Proof of residence;

(b) Proof of employment; and

(c) Proof of purchases for qualifying expenses.

2. A relocated worker may be eligible for a reimbursement grant under the program for qualifying expenses in the amount of not more than five thousand dollars.

3. The department shall award grants under the program on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to available funding as may be appropriated for this purpose.

4. The department shall:

(a) adopt procedures for implementing the program;

(b) promulgate a list of qualifying expenses including but not limited to:

(i) hiring a moving company or renting moving equipment;

(ii) a down payment or security deposit for a residence;

(iii) software necessary to their employment;

(iv) computer and other technological equipment necessary to their employment;

(v) fees or subscription costs related to internet access; and

(vi) fees related to securing a co-working space;

(c) promote awareness of the program, including through coordination with relevant trade groups and by integration into the department's economic development marketing campaigns; and

(d) adopt measurable goals, performance measures, and an audit strategy to assess the utilization and performance of the program.

5. No later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section, the department shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly concerning the implementation of this section, including but not limited to:

(a) a description of the procedures adopted pursuant to this section;

(b) the promotion and marketing of the program; and

(c) any additional recommendations for qualifying expenses or qualifying workers that should be eligible under the program, and any recommendations for the maximum amount of the grant.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.