

STATE OF NEW YORK

25--C

Cal. No. 215

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first report, amended on first report, ordered to a second report and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of second report

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, public housing authorities 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:

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

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

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

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

4 In New York city alone, there are more than 900 food firms, with over
5 16,000 employees and another 2,500 who are self-employed. This has been
6 viewed as evidence of entrepreneurs' intent on developing their food
7 manufacturing ideas into full scale production capabilities and fully
8 functional business entities.

9 Minority and immigrant populations are growing significantly through-
10 out the state and so are their number in entrepreneurship activities,
11 including in the development of foods from their native place of origin
12 and this creates growing demand for such foods by increasing minority
13 and immigrant communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

52 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.