STATE OF NEW YORK

3848

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 31, 2021

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing a community business initiative

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

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 309-b to read as follows:

§ 309-b. Community business initiative. 1. For the purposes of this section "qualifying institution" shall mean postsecondary providers of career education, vocational or technical education providers, continuing education adult schools, community colleges, or workforce training institutions.

2. Within amounts appropriated, and upon application by qualifying institutions, the commissioner shall award grants equaling up to three hundred thousand dollars per project in up to six counties of the state for three years for the development of a school-based incubator to train applicants in business education, financial literacy, and marketing in order to develop local businesses that contribute to the local economy and address community needs.

3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement the community business initiative to include, but not be limited to:

(a) application processes for funds for qualifying institutions and evaluation metrics that include, but are not limited to, the ability for initiatives to meet local needs or address gaps in local business markets. Nothing within the application process shall preclude qualifying institutions from partnering with local chambers of commerce, small business groups, or local government to identify needs of the community and establish collaborative applications;

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

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(b) descriptions of qualifying community business initiatives that include, but are not limited to, those that place an emphasis on training and employing older workers, minorities, and women, as well as those initiatives that are targeted at servicing high risk populations, seniors, or the disabled;

(c) descriptions of business development curriculum including but not limited to, the development of business plans, technological training, production efficiency, local dialogue and cooperation, and the utilization of local resources;

(d) rules and regulations for the establishment of community businesses including, but not limited to, ownership and liability responsibilities for the qualifying institution and participating students at all stages of the development process; and

(e) reporting requirements for the qualifying institutions to track participant involvement, expenditures, training effectiveness, and best practices for curriculum targeted at local business development.

4. The commissioner shall monitor implementation of programs, evaluate progress, and require reports as needed. At the conclusion of the three year pilot period, the commissioner shall report to the speaker of the assembly, the temporary president of the senate and post on the department website a report that includes a description of the chosen community business initiatives, best practices, identification of key concerns and recommendations for improvement as well as model workforce training curriculum and guidance for training and servicing the identified populations.

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