

# 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:

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

### ARTICLE 26

#### RELOCATED WORKER GRANT PROGRAM

#### Section 480. Definitions.

##### 481. Relocated worker grant program.

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

9 1. "Relocated worker" means an individual who:

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

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

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

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

17 (a) relocation to this State;

18 (b) computer software and hardware;

19 (c) broadband access or upgrade; and

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

21 3. "Eligible location" means every city with a population of more than  
22 ninety thousand but less than three hundred thousand, as of the effec-  
23 tive date of this subdivision.

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

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

- 6     (a) Proof of residence;
- 7     (b) Proof of employment; and
- 8     (c) Proof of purchases for qualifying expenses.

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

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

15    4. The department shall:

- 16    (a) adopt procedures for implementing the program;
- 17    (b) promulgate a list of qualifying expenses including but not limited  
18    to:

- 19    (i) hiring a moving company or renting moving equipment;
- 20    (ii) a down payment or security deposit for a residence;
- 21    (iii) software necessary to their employment;
- 22    (iv) computer and other technological equipment necessary to their  
23    employment;

- 24    (v) fees or subscription costs related to internet access; and
- 25    (vi) fees related to securing a co-working space;
- 26    (c) promote awareness of the program, including through coordination  
27    with relevant trade groups and by integration into the department's  
28    economic development marketing campaigns; and

- 29    (d) adopt measurable goals, performance measures, and an audit strate-  
30    gy to assess the utilization and performance of the program.

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

- 36    (a) a description of the procedures adopted pursuant to this section;
- 37    (b) the promotion and marketing of the program; and
- 38    (c) any additional recommendations for qualifying expenses or qualify-  
39    ing workers that should be eligible under the program, and any recommen-  
40    dations for the maximum amount of the grant.

41    § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.