STATE OF NEW YORK

9997

IN ASSEMBLY

May 1, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. SEPTIMO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establishing the minority and women-owned business enterprise center within empire state development corporation

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 section 121 to read as follows:

§ 121. MWBE center. 1. As used in this section:

a. "Director" means the director of the MWBE center created in this section;

b. "MWBE" means an organization described in article fifteen-A of the executive law; and

c. "Center" means the MWBE center created by this section.

2. The minority and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE) center is hereby created within the empire state development corporation to have and exercise the functions, powers and duties provided by the provisions of this section and any other provision of law.

3. The head of the center shall be the director. The director shall receive a salary to be fixed by the governor within the amounts appropriated therefor. The director shall report to the commissioner of empire state development.

a. The director may, from time to time, create, abolish, transfer and consolidate units not expressly established by law as the director may determine necessary for the efficient operation of the center, subject to the approval of the commissioner of empire state development.

b. The director may appoint assistants, and other officers and employees, committees and consultants as the director may deem necessary, prescribe their powers and duties, fix their compensation within the amounts appropriated therefor, subject to the approval of the commissioner of empire state development and the director of the budget.

c. The director may request and receive from any department, division, board, bureau, commission or other agency of the state any information

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

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and non-financial resources that will enable the center to properly carry out its functions, powers and duties. Requests for assistance from such entities shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of empire state development.

4. The center shall have the following functions, powers and duties:

a. to make the services of the division of minority and women's business development accessible in-person in cities with a population of one million or more;

b. to assist MWBE's in a city with a population of one million or more with accessible, in-person certification, business development, capacity-building, contract identification, and technical support;

c. to provide information about existing federal, state, and local MWBE and business assistance programs;

d. to provide education relating to certification and licensure requirements; and

e. to periodically coordinate with agencies regarding the interpretation and clarification of state regulations.

5. On or before September thirtieth of each year, the center shall submit a report to the commissioner of empire state development setting forth the following:

a. the number of MWBEs accessing the center's services;

b. aggregate information regarding the location and ownership of the businesses accessing the center's services;

c. aggregate information regarding the types of services provided to businesses accessing the center's services;

d. aggregate information regarding certifications and contracts won by businesses receiving assistance of the center; and

e. recommendations of the center as to how to better serve MWBE businesses.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.