

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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701

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 6, 2023

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Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to the creation of the strategic investment in workforce development program

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

1 Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of 1968, constituting  
2 the New York state urban development corporation act, is amended by  
3 adding a new section 60 to read as follows:

4 § 60. Strategic investment in workforce development. 1. Pursuant to  
5 this section there is hereby established within the corporation, the  
6 strategic investment in workforce development program to identify and  
7 address workforce needs throughout the state. The corporation shall  
8 collaborate with the department of labor, the department of economic  
9 development, the state university of New York, the city university of  
10 New York, and the state education department to provide support to  
11 eligible applicants within amounts available for the strategic invest-  
12 ments in workforce development program and shall identify the training  
13 needs of employers, employees and prospective employees; identify areas  
14 of the state or specific industries where a shortage of a skilled work-  
15 force is impacting the ability of those areas of the state or industries  
16 to remain competitive and innovative; identify methods and models to  
17 train and employ youth workers; and identify ways to serve prospective  
18 employees that are currently unemployed or underemployed. The strategic  
19 investment in workforce development program shall utilize the informa-  
20 tion gathered to target workforce training activities, employment  
21 credentials or certificate opportunities, and skill development programs  
22 to meet the identified needs and to provide necessary training and skill  
23 development programs to youth and individuals who are unemployed or  
24 underemployed.

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

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1 2. Eligible applicants shall include an employer or consortium of  
2 employers in conjunction with a labor organization, a not-for-profit, an  
3 educational entity or a program or network that provides training and  
4 skill development for youth or individuals who are unemployed or under-  
5 employed. An entity that works directly with employers to provide  
6 training or retraining, particularly in high-skill occupations or indus-  
7 tries, or an entity that seeks to promote and foster economic develop-  
8 ment and job growth shall also be considered an eligible applicant.  
9 Eligible applicants shall demonstrate a relationship with educational  
10 programs and entities that address the needs of employers, employees or  
11 prospective employees, particularly youth, unskilled workers, unemployed  
12 individuals or underemployed workers.

13 3. (a) Assistance provided by the corporation to eligible applicants,  
14 may be used for the costs associated with strategic workforce develop-  
15 ment training and skills development. Such costs may include, but are  
16 not limited to, classroom training, on the job training, curriculum  
17 development, and training materials associated with on the job training,  
18 skills upgrading, skills retraining, and basic skills training that  
19 leads to obtaining appropriate certifications or degrees from accredited  
20 institutions; and

21 (b) The corporation shall ensure that not less than twenty percent of  
22 the program funds are used in support of projects that assist small  
23 businesses as defined in section one hundred thirty-one of the economic  
24 development law and minority- and women-owned business enterprises.

25 4. (a) The corporation shall report to the legislature by June thirti-  
26 eth, two thousand twenty-five and annually thereafter, identifying the  
27 entities receiving assistance, the type of assistance provided, the  
28 number of individuals trained and newly hired including those who were  
29 previously unemployed, underemployed or economically disadvantaged, and  
30 the number of certifications or degrees conferred from accredited insti-  
31 tutions.

32 (b) The corporation shall also provide for an independent evaluation  
33 of the program on or before June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-six, and  
34 every three years thereafter.

35 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be deemed to  
36 have been in full force and effect on and after April 1, 2025.