STATE OF NEW YORK

9970

IN ASSEMBLY

May 1, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. WOERNER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establishing the small business energy conservation ombudsman program

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 138-a to read as follows:

§ 138-a. Small business energy conservation ombudsman program. 1. There is hereby established within the division for small businesses a small business energy conservation ombudsman program. The primary purpose of such program is to represent small businesses on issues relating to state energy policy and the goals of the climate leadership and community protection act.

2. The department shall, through the small business energy conservation ombudsman program, provide the following services:

a. soliciting input from small businesses on conservation of energy and the promotion of the state's clean energy and climate agenda, including interacting with organizations representing small businesses such as trade associations or other entities;

b. participating in, facilitating and promoting the participation of small businesses in the development and implementation of rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the state energy law and other aspects of the climate leadership and community protection act, including but not limited to rules and regulations relating to retrofitting existing commercial buildings and making new construction compliant with section 11-104 of the energy law and to the electrification of the transportation sector pursuant to article seventy-five of the environmental conservation law;

c. participating in and sponsoring meetings with the New York state research and development authority, state and local energy and climate agencies, industry groups and small business representatives;

d. providing guidance and recommendations to the New York state research and development authority and other state agencies on the

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

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development, content and operation of the small business energy conservation ombudsman program;

e. developing and distributing to small businesses information and materials on energy conservation and the requirements and goals of the climate leadership and community protection act as outlined in section 3-101 of the energy law;

f. aiding in the investigation and resolution of energy conservation complaints and disputes from small businesses against state agencies and local authorities;

g. reviewing and providing comments and recommendations to state agencies regarding the development and implementation of energy conservation regulations that impact small businesses;

h. referring small businesses to specialists for information and assistance on affordable alternative technologies, process changes, products and operational methods to help achieve energy conservation and the goals of the climate leadership and community protection act;

i. providing information to small businesses on state-sponsored programs offering financial and technical assistance, and in locating sources of funding for energy conservation; and

j. establishing procedures for assuring the confidentiality of information received from small businesses.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.