STATE OF NEW YORK

4623

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 13, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the state finance law, in relation to enacting the COVID-19 essential workers appreciation act

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "COVID-19 essential workers appreciation act".

§ 2. COVID-19 essential workers appreciation awards. (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all businesses with profits over $500,000 dollars that do business in the state that during the state disaster emergency declared pursuant to executive order 202 have seen an increase in profits by 20% over the same time period in 2019 shall deposit 5% of such business' gross profits into the COVID-19 essential workers appreciation fund established pursuant to section 99-ii of the state finance law.

(b) There is hereby established the COVID-19 essential workers appreciation task force. Such task force shall be comprised of 7 members to be appointed as follows:

(i) 2 members appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(ii) 2 members appointed by the speaker of the assembly;

(iii) 1 member appointed by the governor;

(iv) 1 member appointed by the governor who is the representative of a small business organization; and

(v) 1 member appointed by the governor who is the representative of a retail union.

(c) The COVID-19 essential workers appreciation task force established pursuant to subdivision (b) of this section shall develop eligibility requirements and make awards utilizing the monies in the COVID-19 essential workers appreciation fund. Such awards shall be made to:

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

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(i) eligible employees of essential businesses, including but not limited to, grocery stores, liquor stores, convenience stores, delis and grocery delivery personnel; and

(ii) eligible family members of any employee of an essential business who died as a result of contracting novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

§ 3. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-qq to read as follows:

§ 99-qq. COVID-19 essential workers appreciation fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the state comptroller and the commissioner of taxation and finance a fund to be known as the COVID-19 essential workers appreciation fund.

2. Such fund shall consist of all monies deposited pursuant to subdivision (a) of section two of a chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-three that added this section, and all other moneys credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source.

3. Monies of the fund, shall be made available as awards pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (c) of section two of a chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-three that added this section.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.