

STATE OF NEW YORK

7904

IN SENATE

January 3, 2024

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- 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 public authorities law and the economic development law, in relation to expanding employee ownership assistance for transgender and non-binary individuals

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

1 Section 1. Section 1836-a of the public authorities law, as added by
2 chapter 788 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 1836-a. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and
4 declares that the health, safety and general welfare of the people of
5 this state are directly dependent upon the state economy, and that one
6 of the principal problems of our present economy is the permanent clos-
7 ing of industrial and manufacturing plants, and other businesses, and
8 their relocation out of state, which results in the loss of jobs and
9 increasing unemployment.

10 It is the purpose of this subtitle to encourage ~~[the]~~ employees of
11 plants and other businesses that are about to be permanently closed, or
12 relocated, to acquire such plants and businesses and to continue to
13 operate them as employee-owned enterprises, thereby retaining the jobs
14 that would otherwise be lost, and strengthening the economic base of
15 this state.

16 § 2. Subdivisions 3, 4 and 8 of section 1836-b of the public authori-
17 ties law, subdivisions 3 and 8 as added by chapter 788 of the laws of
18 1983, and subdivision 4 as amended by chapter 805 of the laws of 1985,
19 are amended to read as follows:

20 3. "Eligible project" means the acquisition or rehabilitation by an
21 employee ownership association of an existing industrial or manufactur-
22 ing plant or other business located in this state for the purpose of
23 operating it as an employee-owned enterprise.

24 4. "Employee ownership association" means a corporation or other asso-
25 ciation formed by or on behalf of the employees of an industrial or
26 manufacturing plant or business located in this state for the purpose of

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

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1 assuming ownership or control of the plant or business and operating it
2 as an employee-owned enterprise or as a worker cooperative as defined in
3 section eighty-one of the cooperative corporations law.

4 8. "Business" includes a sole proprietorship, partnership or corpo-
5 ration operating in this state.

6 9. "Project cost" includes all reasonable and necessary costs to be
7 incurred in the course of an eligible project, including any anticipated
8 acquisition, construction, land acquisition, improvements, equipment,
9 pertinent rights and easements, and associated technical, engineering,
10 legal and financial services.

11 § 3. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 1 of section 1836-c of the public
12 authorities law, as added by chapter 788 of the laws of 1983, is amended
13 to read as follows:

14 (b) the history and circumstances of the plant or business to be
15 acquired;

16 § 4. Section 1836-d of the public authorities law, as added by chapter
17 788 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

18 § 1836-d. Loan preferences. In approving applications for loans under
19 this subtitle, the authority shall give preference to projects which:

20 1. have a membership consisting of a majority of minority, transgen-
21 der, or non-binary members;

22 2. have a higher level of funding from the funding partners;

23 [2-] 3. have the most direct impact on local economic development and
24 the creation or retention of employment opportunities;

25 [3-] 4. are most likely to stimulate other private sector investments;
26 and

27 [4-] 5. are least speculative, and provide greatest assurance of
28 repayment of the loan.

29 § 5. Subdivision 7 of section 104-a of the economic development law,
30 as added by chapter 788 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as
31 follows:

32 7. Identify [~~industrial and manufacturing~~] businesses that are in
33 danger of being permanently closed or relocated out of state, which
34 results in the loss of jobs and increasing unemployment, and assist the
35 businesses and employees of such businesses by distributing information
36 about the provisions of this section.

37 § 6. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 210 of the economic development
38 law, as amended by chapter 669 of the laws of 2022, are amended to read
39 as follows:

40 3. "Minority business enterprise" shall mean any business enterprise
41 which is at least fifty-one per centum owned by, or in the case of a
42 publicly owned business at least fifty-one per centum of the stock of
43 which is owned by, citizens or permanent resident noncitizens who are
44 transgender or non-binary, Black, Hispanic, Asian or American Indian,
45 Pacific Islander or Alaskan Native where such ownership interest is
46 real, substantial and continuing and where such persons have the author-
47 ity to independently control the day-to-day business decisions of the
48 entity.

49 4. "Minority group member" shall mean a United States citizen or
50 permanent resident noncitizen who is and can demonstrate membership in
51 one of the following groups:

52 (a) Black persons having origins in any of the Black African racial
53 groups not of Hispanic origin;

54 (b) Hispanic persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban,
55 Central or South American descent of either Indian or Hispanic origin,
56 regardless of race;

- 1 (c) Asian and Pacific Islander persons having origins in the Far East,
2 Southeast Asia, the Indian sub-continent or the Pacific Islands; or
3 (d) American Indian or Alaskan Native persons having origins in any of
4 the original peoples of North America; or
5 (e) Transgender or non-binary.
6 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately.