

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7235

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

March 21, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BICHOTTE HERMELYN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, the state finance law and the public authorities law, in relation to establishing expanded construction mentorship opportunities for small and minority and women-owned business enterprises

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subdivision 4 of section 311 of the execu-  
2 tive law, as added by chapter 96 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read  
3 as follows:

4 (e) identify and establish mentorship opportunities and other business  
5 development programs to increase capacity and better prepare MWBEs for  
6 bidding on contracts with state agencies upon successful completion of  
7 the mentorship opportunity. Such mentorship opportunities shall be  
8 intended to ensure that mentor and mentee are connected based on a  
9 commercially useful function. Mentorship opportunities shall also be  
10 identified and established in instances where there is privity of  
11 contract between a minority and women-owned business enterprise and a  
12 subcontractor or contractor working on a state contract.

13 § 2. Paragraph (j) of subdivision 2-a of section 313 of the executive  
14 law, as amended by chapter 96 of the laws of 2019, is amended and a new  
15 paragraph (k) is added to read as follows:

16 (j) require each agency to consult the most current disparity study  
17 when calculating agency-wide and contract specific participation goals  
18 pursuant to this article; [~~and~~]

19 (k) encourage mentor-protege relationships as defined in section one  
20 hundred forty-seven of the state finance law, between a minority and  
21 women-owned business enterprise and a state agency where there is privi-  
22 ty of contract between a minority and women-owned business enterprise  
23 and a subcontractor or contractor working on a state contract.

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

LBD10443-01-5

1 § 3. Subdivision 1 of section 147 of the state finance law, as added  
2 by chapter 360 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

3 1. In every state agency, department and authority which has let more  
4 than ten million dollars in service and construction contracts in the  
5 prior fiscal year, the chief executive officer of that agency, depart-  
6 ment or authority shall develop a mentor-protege program to foster long-  
7 term relationships between state agencies, approved mentor firms, and  
8 small business concerns and minority and women-owned businesses certi-  
9 fied pursuant to article fifteen-A of the executive law, in order to  
10 enhance the capabilities of small and minority and women-owned business  
11 concerns, improve their success in contracting with the state or receiv-  
12 ing subcontracts under a state contract, and to create sources of reli-  
13 able contractors and subcontractors ready to perform larger jobs and  
14 responsibilities. Participation in the program shall be voluntary for  
15 both the mentor firm and the protege firm. Such mentor-protege programs  
16 shall be established in instances where there is privity of contract  
17 between a minority and women-owned business enterprise and a subcontrac-  
18 tor or contractor working on a state contract.

19 § 4. Subparagraphs (vi) and (vii) of paragraph b of subdivision 2 of  
20 section 1265-b of the public authorities law, as added by chapter 206 of  
21 the laws of 2010, are amended and a new subparagraph (viii) is added to  
22 read as follows:

23 (vi) to assist only small business mentoring program participants that  
24 have been awarded small business mentoring program contracts to obtain  
25 any surety bond or contract of insurance required of them in connection  
26 with such contract only notwithstanding any provision of section two  
27 thousand five hundred four of the insurance law to the contrary; ~~and~~

28 (vii) for small businesses that have been accepted into the small  
29 business mentoring program under subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (d) of  
30 subdivision one of this section, in addition to the benefits of such  
31 program and notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide tech-  
32 nical assistance in obtaining bid, payment and performance bonding for  
33 authority public work contracts that are not small business mentoring  
34 program contracts, for which the small business is otherwise quali-  
35 fied[-]; ~~and~~

36 (viii) to further establish small business mentoring programs between  
37 the agency and a minority and women-owned business enterprise in  
38 instances where there is privity of contract between a minority and  
39 women-owned business enterprise and a subcontractor or contractor work-  
40 ing on an authority public works contract.

41 § 5. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that;

42 (a) the amendments to article 15-A of the executive law, made by  
43 sections one and two of this act, shall not affect the expiration of  
44 such article and shall expire and be deemed expired therewith; and

45 (b) the amendments to section 1265-b of the public authorities law  
46 made by section four of this act shall not affect the repeal of such  
47 section and shall be deemed repealed therewith.