STATE OF NEW YORK

184

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PERSAUD -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Social Services

AN ACT to amend the social services law, in relation to establishing a full year youth and young adult employment immersion program

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

Section 1. The social services law is amended by adding a new section 131-y to read as follows:

§ 131-y. Youth employment immersion program. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Office" means the office of temporary and disability assistance.

(b) "Program" means the youth employment immersion program established under this section.

(c) "Eligible youths and young adults" means economically disadvantaged state residents who are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four whom have not completed post-secondary education.

2. The office shall establish a youth employment immersion program. The program shall be administered by the local social services districts with supervision and regulation by the office. The program shall be for eligible youths and young adults which shall include:

(a) up to twenty percent of an eligible youth or young adult's time with the program being spent on education and employment readiness, including, but not limited to:

(i) attending a high school equivalency program;

(ii) attending programs which teach workforce readiness, skill development, financial literacy, or digital literacy;

(iii) earning a certification or license; or

(iv) being provided with job placement and retention services; and

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

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(b) at least eighty percent of an eligible youth or young adult's time with the program being spent engaging in paid employment that builds transferable skills.

3. The program shall permit eligible youths and young adults to apply for participation in the program for a period of one year with the option of re-applying to extend their participation in the program by one year until they are no longer eligible.

4. The program may provide employers with subsidies of up to one third of the gross wages for up to one year for the hiring of a participant in the program.

5. The program shall perform outreach to eligible youths and young adults at: high school equivalency programs; high schools, specifically reaching out to students who do not have plans after graduation; and public assistance work readiness programs. The program shall also reach out to youths and young adults who are being released by the criminal justice system or non-secure placement programs.

6. Program participants shall be compensated for employment, education and employment readiness components at a rate equal to two hundred sixty-five percent of the federal poverty line.

§ 2. Subparagraph (ix) of paragraph (a) of subdivision 8 of section 131-a of the social services law, as added by section 1 of subpart D of part XX of chapter 55 of the laws of 2020, is amended to read as follows:

(ix) all of the income derived from participation in the summer youth employment program **or youth employment immersion program**, provided however, that such income shall be exempt only for an individual who is not older than age twenty-four at the time of enrollment in the summer youth employment program **or youth employment immersion program** and such disregard must be applied for the length of the individual's participation in such program.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.