STATE OF NEW YORK

1330

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 9, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CRUZ, CUNNINGHAM -- read once and referred to the Committee on Economic Development

AN ACT in relation to requiring the Empire State development corporation in consultation with the department of agriculture and markets and the office of new Americans to study the economic impact of optimizing and creating kitchen incubators in New York state

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that in order to improve the economic opportunities for its citizens and entrepreneurs, New York state must use and expand its capabilities to offer space and resources to the next generation of food manufacturing businesses.

It has been documented that the chief obstacle for start-up food manufacturing businesses is their inability to access affordable commercial kitchen space. Currently, in New York state, there are only a few kitchen incubators, which face high demand and are unable to meet the needs of the many potential start-up businesses.

Kitchen incubators are valuable resources for New York state in it's efforts to promote new jobs, business and increased tax revenues.

In New York city alone, there are more than 900 food firms, with over 16,000 employees and another 2,500 who are self-employed, making entrepreneurs' intent on developing their food manufacturing ideas into full scale functional business business evident.

Minority and immigrant populations are growing significantly throughout the state and so is their involvement in entrepreneurship, including production of foods from their place of origin, which creates growing demand for such foods. This directly benefits minority and immigrant communities.

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

LBD03860-01-5

Increased capacity for kitchen incubators throughout New York state will help new entrepreneurs succeed and increase the economic benefits for the entire state.

New York must do more to propel these business start-ups and potential manufacturers into full scale operations, and should move to allow its university systems to expand their regional economic catalyst activities to serve entrepreneurs looking to enter the food manufacturing sector.

§ 2. For purposes of this act, the term "kitchen incubator" shall mean a food preparation facility that provides kitchen space and access to commercial grade equipment to prepare food at a shared or leased location.

§ 3. a. Using available appropriations, the Empire State Development Corporation, in consultation with the department of agriculture and markets and the office of new Americans shall study and examine the potential economic impact for optimizing kitchen incubators in New York state, including establishing and/or expanding such opportunities at public or private locations with appropriate kitchen preparation space for a kitchen incubator that the corporation may identify.

b. The study conducted pursuant to this section shall evaluate the impact of such optimization on entrepreneurship efforts in growing women, minority and immigrant populations.

c. The Empire State Development Corporation shall work with the department of agriculture and markets and the office of new Americans to convene a group of stakeholders to provide further insight into optimizing and expanding kitchen incubators and entrepreneurship efforts for women, minority, and immigrant populations in New York state.

d. The Empire State Development Corporation shall create a report containing recommendations for the creation, funding and future expansion of kitchen incubators throughout the state, and increasing entrepreneurial success in the culinary industry, by providing comprehensive advisory and business development services along with access to facilities and equipment in a co-working shared environment conducive to collaboration, networking, mentorship, and food safety education.

e. The report compiled by the Empire State Development Corporation pursuant to subdivision d of this section shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature not later than one year after the effective date of this act.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.