

STATE OF NEW YORK

4408

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 4, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establishing an economic gardening pilot program within the department of economic development

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

1 Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new
2 article 24 to read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 24

4 GROWNY PROGRAM

5 Section 460. GrowNY pilot program.

6 § 460. GrowNY pilot program. 1. (a) There is hereby created within the
7 department the GrowNY pilot program. The purpose of the pilot program is
8 to stimulate investment in the state economy by providing technical
9 assistance for expanding businesses in the state.

10 (b) The department is authorized and directed to promulgate all neces-
11 sary rules and regulations required to implement the GrowNY pilot
12 program.

13 2. (a) The department shall contract with regional non-profit economic
14 development entities to administer the pilot program under this section.
15 The department shall award competitive grants of up to five hundred
16 thousand dollars a year for a period of up to five years to each entity
17 that demonstrates the ability to implement the pilot program in their
18 region, has an outreach plan, and has the ability to provide counseling
19 services, access to technology and information, marketing services and
20 advice, business management support, and other similar services.

21 (b) Contracts with selected economic development entities shall be for
22 a period of five years and shall be reevaluated by the department every
23 twelve months to ensure such entities continue to provide a positive
24 economic benefit to the community and conform to the program criteria.

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

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1 Contracted entities shall not limit services offered under this program
2 to members of such entity and shall seek to provide economic gardening
3 services to every eligible business that meets the criteria of the
4 program.

5 (c) Contracted entities shall coordinate their efforts with the local
6 New York State Small Business Development Center or other lead economic
7 development organizations in counties and cities within the region of
8 the contracted entity and shall establish a referral system and linkages
9 to existing area small business assistance programs and financing sourc-
10 es.

11 3. A contracted entity administering the pilot program shall provide
12 technical assistance for eligible businesses which includes, but is not
13 limited to:

14 (a) Access to affordable information services and consulting services,
15 including information on markets, customers, and competitors, business
16 databases, geographic information systems, internet and social media
17 strategies, business to business referrals, and search engine optimiza-
18 tion;

19 (b) Development of business connections, including interaction and
20 exchange among business owners and resource providers, including
21 colleges and universities, trade associations, think tanks, academic
22 institutions, business roundtables, financial service and workforce
23 development providers, peer-to-peer learning sessions, and mentoring
24 programs;

25 (c) Assistance in developing a listing of shovel ready sites currently
26 available to the needs of the business;

27 (d) Assistance in understanding state laws and regulations applicable
28 to such business;

29 (e) Any other form of consultation and technical assistance that may
30 be provided to the eligible business to assist with its business and
31 marketing needs.

32 4. (a) This program shall be targeted at emerging growth businesses,
33 known as second stage companies. To be eligible for assistance under the
34 pilot program, a business must be a for-profit, privately held business
35 that employs at least five persons, but not more than ninety-nine
36 persons, has maintained its principal place of business in the state for
37 at least the previous two years, and generates at least seven hundred
38 fifty thousand dollars, but not more than fifty million dollars, in
39 annual revenue. The commissioner shall have the authority to make
40 exceptions to these provisions at their sole discretion.

41 (b) A contracted entity administering the pilot program, in selecting
42 the eligible businesses to receive assistance, shall actively reach out
43 to businesses in more than one industry cluster and, to the maximum
44 extent practicable, shall choose businesses that are geographically
45 distributed throughout the region with the greatest potential for job
46 growth.

47 5. (a) A business receiving assistance under the pilot program must
48 enter into an agreement with the contracted entity administering the
49 program to establish the business' commitment to participation in the
50 pilot program. The arrangement must require, at a minimum, that the
51 business:

52 (i) attend a minimum number of meetings between the business and the
53 contracted entity administering the pilot program. Such meetings shall
54 be held at the convenience of the business;

1 (ii) report investment, revenue, and job creation and retention data
2 in the manner prescribed by the contracted entity administering the
3 pilot program; and

4 (iii) provide non-proprietary financial data in the manner prescribed
5 by the contracted entity administering the program.

6 (b) The regional non-profit economic development entity or the
7 contracted entity administering the pilot program shall report the
8 information to the department on an annual basis.

9 6. A contracted entity administering the pilot program is authorized
10 to promote the general business interests or industrial interests of the
11 state.

12 7. The department shall review the progress of the contracted entity
13 administering the pilot program at least once every twelve months and
14 shall determine whether the contracted entity is meeting its contractual
15 obligations for administering the pilot program. The department may
16 terminate and rebid a contract if the contracted entity does not meet
17 its contractual obligations.

18 8. By March thirty-first, two thousand twenty-six and annually there-
19 after, the department shall submit a report to the governor, the tempo-
20 rary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority
21 leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly which
22 describes in detail the progress of the GrowNY pilot program. The report
23 shall include, but is not limited to, the number of businesses receiving
24 assistance, the number of full-time equivalent jobs created or retained
25 as a result of the assistance, if any, and the aggregate amount of wages
26 paid to such employees.

27 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.