

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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8988

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the labor law, in relation to the office of strategic workforce development; to repeal section 100-b of the economic development law, relating thereto; and in relation to transferring the office of strategic workforce development from the department of economic development to the department of labor

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

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
2 the "workforce development consolidation act of 2025".  
3 § 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that a  
4 fragmented approach to workforce development across multiple state agen-  
5 cies has led to inefficiencies, duplication of services, and a lack of  
6 alignment with the evolving needs of New York's economy. The current  
7 system presents challenges for job seekers and employers alike. The  
8 legislature further finds that consolidating workforce development  
9 programs under a single, strategic office will streamline adminis-  
10 tration, improve accessibility, enhance accountability, and better align  
11 training with the demands of high-growth industries. It is the intent of  
12 the legislature to consolidate all workforce development programs  
13 currently administered by various New York state agencies into the  
14 office of strategic workforce development that will now be part of the  
15 department of labor, thereby modernizing and strengthening New York  
16 state's workforce development system.  
17 § 3. Section 100-b of the economic development law is REPEALED.  
18 § 4. Transfer of functions. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law  
19 to the contrary, all of the duties, functions and powers of the office  
20 of strategic workforce development are hereby transferred, assigned to,  
21 and assumed by the department of labor and the commissioner thereof as  
22 may be applicable.

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

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1 § 5. Transfer of employees. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
2 law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, upon the transfer of functions  
3 from the department of economic development to the department of labor  
4 pursuant to this act, all employees of the office of strategic workforce  
5 development shall be transferred to the department of labor to be  
6 retained within the office of strategic workforce development. Employees  
7 transferred pursuant to this section shall be transferred without  
8 further examination or qualification and shall retain their respective  
9 civil service classifications, status, and collective bargaining unit  
10 designations and collective bargaining agreements. No individual trans-  
11 ferred pursuant to this act shall suffer a reduction in salary.

12 § 6. Transfer of facilities, records, and equipment. The commissioner  
13 of economic development shall transfer and deliver to the commissioner  
14 of labor all facilities, vehicles, books, papers, records, and equipment  
15 of the office of strategic workforce development to the department of  
16 labor so as to enable the department of labor to carry out the trans-  
17 ferred functions of the office set out in section four of this act.

18 § 7. Completion of unfinished business. Any business or other matter  
19 undertaken or commenced by the department of economic development  
20 pertaining to or connected with the functions, powers, obligations, and  
21 duties transferred and assigned pursuant to this act to the department  
22 of labor, and pending on the effective date of this act, may be  
23 conducted and completed by the department of labor in the same manner  
24 and under the same terms and conditions and with the same effect as if  
25 conducted and completed by the department of economic development.

26 § 8. Continuation of rules and regulations. All rules, regulations,  
27 acts, orders, determinations, and decisions of the office of strategic  
28 workforce development or the department of economic development pertain-  
29 ing to the functions and powers transferred and assigned pursuant to  
30 this act, in force at the time of such transfer and assumption, shall  
31 continue in force and effect as rules, regulations, acts, orders, deter-  
32 minations, and decisions of the department of labor until duly modified  
33 or abrogated by the commissioner of labor.

34 § 9. Terms occurring in laws, contracts, and other documents. Whenever  
35 the office of strategic workforce development is referred to or desig-  
36 nated in any law, contract, or document pertaining to the functions,  
37 powers, obligations, and duties transferred and assigned pursuant to  
38 this act, such reference or designation shall be deemed to refer to the  
39 office of strategic workforce development as continued in the department  
40 of labor.

41 § 10. Pending actions or proceedings. No action or proceeding pending  
42 at the time when this act shall take effect, brought by or against the  
43 office of strategic workforce development shall be affected by this act,  
44 but the same may be prosecuted or defended in the name of the commis-  
45 sioner of labor or the office. If the department of economic development  
46 is a party in any such actions and proceedings, the commissioner of  
47 labor or the office, upon application to the court, shall be substituted  
48 as party.

49 § 11. Transfer of appropriations. All appropriations made to the  
50 department of economic development relating to the office of strategic  
51 workforce development, to the extent of remaining unexpended balances,  
52 shall be transferred by the comptroller to and made available for use by  
53 the department of labor, subject to the approval of the director of the  
54 budget, for the payment of liabilities previously incurred by the func-  
55 tions transferred pursuant to this act. Payments for liabilities for  
56 expenses of personal service, maintenance, and operation previously

1 incurred by the transfer of functions and for liabilities incurred and  
2 to be incurred shall be made on vouchers or certificates approved by the  
3 commissioner of labor on audit and warrant of the comptroller.

4 § 12. Transfer of assets and liabilities. All assets and liabilities  
5 of the office of strategic workforce development as part of the depart-  
6 ment of economic development shall be transferred to and assumed by the  
7 office as part of the department of labor.

8 § 13. Transfer of workforce development programs. All existing work-  
9 force development programs shall be transferred and administered by the  
10 office of strategic workforce development within sixty days of the  
11 effective date of this section.

12 § 14. The labor law is amended by adding a new article 24-B to read as  
13 follows:

14 ARTICLE 24-B

15 OFFICE OF STRATEGIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

16 Section 855. Definitions.

17 855-a. Responsibilities of the office.

18 855-b. Transition task force.

19 855-c. Annual reporting.

20 § 855. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following  
21 terms shall have the following meanings:

22 1. "Workforce development program" means any program administered by a  
23 New York state agency or public authority that provides training, educa-  
24 tion, job placement assistance, or related services to individuals seek-  
25 ing employment or to employers seeking to train or upskill employees.

26 2. "Office" means the office of strategic workforce development.

27 § 855-a. Responsibilities of the office. The office of strategic work-  
28 force development shall:

29 1. administer all consolidated workforce development programs and  
30 associated funding;

31 2. conduct a comprehensive review of existing workforce training  
32 programs to identify redundancies, inefficiencies, and opportunities for  
33 improvement, and to ensure compliance with the federal workforce inno-  
34 vation and opportunity act, pursuant to chapter thirty-two of title  
35 twenty-nine of the United States code within six months of the effective  
36 date of this section;

37 3. develop and implement a streamlined, unified application system for  
38 all workforce development programs to simplify access for applicants;

39 4. implement and maintain an applicant tracking system to monitor  
40 applicant progress from submission through program completion and job  
41 placement. Such applicant tracking system shall be utilized to collect  
42 and analyze data on program participation, demographics, training  
43 outcomes, and employment rates;

44 5. establish and utilize standardized performance metrics to evaluate  
45 the effectiveness of all workforce development programs. Such metrics  
46 shall include, but are not limited to, job placement rates, wage levels,  
47 retention rates, and skill attainment;

48 6. launch and maintain a statewide public awareness campaign to  
49 educate residents of the state of New York about the consolidation of  
50 workforce development programs, the services available, and how to  
51 access those services. Such campaign shall utilize various communication  
52 channels, including but not limited to online resources, social media,  
53 community outreach, and partnerships with employers and community organ-  
54 izations;

55 7. prioritize training programs in high-growth industries, including  
56 but not limited to technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and green

1 energy, in alignment with local, regional and statewide economic devel-  
2 opment priorities; and

3 8. coordinate closely with regional economic development councils to  
4 ensure that workforce training programs meet local labor market needs  
5 and support regional economic development strategies.

6 § 855-b. Transition task force. A transition task force shall be  
7 established within thirty days of the effective date of this section to  
8 oversee the transition of the office to the department of labor pursuant  
9 to the chapter of the laws of two thousand twenty-five which added this  
10 article. Such task force shall be composed of representatives from the  
11 office, the department of labor, the department of education, the  
12 department of health, empire state development, and other relevant agen-  
13 cies and stakeholders, as necessary.

14 § 855-c. Annual reporting. The department shall submit a report to the  
15 governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the  
16 assembly no later than December thirty-first of each year. In preparing  
17 the report, the department shall coordinate with the department of  
18 education, the state university of New York, the city university of New  
19 York, the office of temporary and disability assistance, the office of  
20 children and family services, the urban development corporation and its  
21 subsidiaries, and any other relevant agency or entity. Such report shall  
22 include, but need not be limited to: aggregate totals for each economic  
23 development program administered directly by the office, and aggregate  
24 totals for related programs in other agencies wherein such program funds  
25 are appropriated within the office, the number of awards made since the  
26 last report as well as the number of awards made to date, the number of  
27 business partners secured through such awards, the dollar total of such  
28 awards, regional distribution of such awards, the identified statewide  
29 and regional priority sectors as identified by the urban development  
30 corporation with input from the regional economic development councils  
31 including a description of each such sector, the number of trainees  
32 assisted through such awards, leveraged matching funds associated with  
33 awards, program participation rates, industry trends, and any other  
34 information deemed necessary by the commissioner.

35 § 15. This act shall take effect immediately.