STATE OF NEW YORK

9285

IN SENATE

February 25, 2026

Introduced by Sen. BAILEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to the newspaper and broadcast media jobs program

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

Section 1. Subdivision 10 of section 492 of the economic development law, as amended by section 1 of part J of chapter 59 of the laws of 2025, is amended and a new subdivision 14 is added to read as follows:

10. "Net employee increase" means an increase of at least one full-time employee between the average starting full-time employment and the average ending full-time employment of an eligible business **entity or nonprofit organization**, as defined by the department.

14. "Eligible nonprofit news media organization" means an organization that:

(a) is a public television or radio corporation as defined under section two hundred thirty-six of the education law or is organized and operated as a nonprofit organization exempt from state income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

(b) is in good standing with the New York secretary of state and all relevant state agencies; and

(c) meets the requirements of an "eligible business" and operates within an "eligible industry" as defined in this article and would otherwise be eligible for a newspaper and broadcast media jobs tax credit if not for its nonprofit status.

§ 2. Section 496 of the economic development law, as added by section 2 of part AAA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

§ 496. Powers and duties of the commissioner. 1. The commissioner shall promulgate regulations establishing [~~an~~] application [~~process~~] **processes** and eligibility criteria, that will be applied consistent with the purposes of this article, so as not to exceed the annual [~~cap~~] **caps** on tax credits **and grants** set forth in [~~section~~] **sections** four hundred

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

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ninety-five and four hundred ninety-nine of this article which, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in the state administrative procedure act, may be adopted on an emergency basis.

2. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the department of taxation and finance, develop a certificate of tax credit that shall be issued by the commissioner to eligible businesses. Such certificate shall contain such information as required by the department of taxation and finance. The commissioner shall also develop a grant award certificate that shall be issued to eligible nonprofit news media organizations. Such certificate shall specify the exact amount of the grant awarded.

3. The commissioner shall solely determine the eligibility of any applicant applying for entry into the program and shall remove any business entity or nonprofit organization from the program for failing to meet any of the requirements set forth in section four hundred ninety-three or four hundred ninety-eight of this article, or for failing to meet the requirements set forth in subdivision one of section four hundred ninety-four of this article or subdivision one of section five hundred of this article.

§ 3. The economic development law is amended by adding four new sections 497, 498, 499 and 500 to read as follows:

§ 497. Nonprofit news media jobs grant program. 1. There is hereby established in the state treasury a special fund to be known as the "nonprofit news media jobs formula grant fund".

2. Subject to appropriation by the legislature, monies in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible nonprofit news media organizations as provided in this article, in a manner equivalent to the application of tax credits to commercial media organizations, except that the grants shall be applied for the employment of qualifying journalists at the eligible nonprofit news media organization.

3. Any unexpended balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

§ 498. Grant eligibility criteria. To be eligible for a grant under this article, a nonprofit organization shall:

1. Be an eligible nonprofit news media organization as defined in section four hundred ninety-two of this article;

2. Operate predominantly in an eligible industry and be located within the state of New York;

3. Demonstrate with data on subscribers or digital traffic to have an audience that is at least thirty-three percent located within the state of New York over the previous calendar year; and

4. Demonstrate that the organization has been operating for at least one year prior to the year for which it is applying for a grant.

§ 499. Nonprofit news media jobs grant. 1. A nonprofit organization that meets the eligibility requirements of section four hundred ninety-eight of this article, and meets any additional eligibility criteria as articulated in regulations established pursuant to this section, and demonstrates a net qualifying journalist employee increase, may be eligible to receive a grant equal to five thousand dollars per each full-time net employee increase as defined in section four hundred ninety-two of this article. A nonprofit organization may not receive in excess of twenty thousand dollars in grants under this program.

2. A nonprofit organization that meets the eligibility requirements of section four hundred ninety-eight of this article, and meets any addi-

tional eligibility criteria as articulated in regulations established pursuant to this section, may be eligible to claim a grant equal to fifty percent of annual wages of an eligible employee. The calculation of such a grant shall only be applied to up to fifty thousand dollars in wages paid annually per eligible employee. A nonprofit organization may not receive in excess of three hundred thousand dollars in grants under this program.

3. The total amount of grants awarded by the commissioner pursuant to this article may not exceed fifteen million dollars for each year the grants are available, plus any amount carried over from previous years. Within the total available balance of the nonprofit news media jobs formula grant fund in any fiscal year, fifty percent of grants shall be set-aside for eligible nonprofit organizations with one hundred or fewer employees. The remaining fifty percent of grants may be awarded to eligible nonprofit organizations of any size.

§ 500. Grant application and approval process. 1. A nonprofit entity shall submit a complete application as prescribed by the commissioner.

2. The commissioner shall establish procedures and a timeframe for nonprofit organizations to submit applications. As part of the application, each organization shall:

(a) provide evidence in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner of their eligibility as a nonprofit news media organization;

(b) provide documentation of tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;

(c) agree to allow the department of labor to share its employer information with the department. However, any information shared as a result of this program shall not be available for disclosure or inspection under the state freedom of information law;

(d) allow the department and its agents access to any and all books and records the department may require to monitor compliance; and

(e) agree to provide any additional information required by the department relevant to this article.

3. After reviewing a nonprofit organization's completed final application and determining that the nonprofit organization meets the eligibility criteria as set forth in this article and that the grant award would not cause the annual cap set forth in section four hundred ninety-nine to be exceeded, the department may issue to that nonprofit organization a grant award.

4. Grant performance audits shall be limited to verifying employment, audience and financial records. No state agency or official shall condition, modify, or revoke grants based on editorial content, positions, or coverage decisions of recipient organizations.

5. No nonprofit organization or business entity may receive both a grant and tax credits under this article within the same annual award period.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.