

ASSEMBLY, No. 2799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Business Action Center to establish “Entrepreneur Learner’s Permit Pilot Program” for certain designated industries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT requiring the establishment of a pilot program to assist
2 first-time entrepreneurs and supplementing P.L.1948, c.445
3 (C. 52:16A-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. No later than six months after the effective date of
9 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
10 the Business Action Center within the Department of State shall
11 develop, establish, and implement a two-year “Entrepreneur
12 Learner’s Permit Pilot Program” that shall be administered by the
13 center over a period of two consecutive fiscal years. The purpose of
14 the pilot program shall be to encourage and assist first-time
15 entrepreneurs in starting new businesses in designated industries by
16 providing reimbursements to qualifying entrepreneurs for State
17 filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with the formation of
18 a qualifying business in the State.

19 b. Prior to the formation of the business for which the
20 entrepreneur seeks reimbursement of the fees described in
21 subsection a. of this section, an applicant seeking to participate in
22 the pilot program shall submit an application for pilot program
23 eligibility to the center in a form and manner prescribed by the
24 center. The center shall establish criteria for the review and
25 approval of pilot program applications, provided that the center
26 shall:

27 (1) give priority to women’s business applicants and minority
28 business applicants; and

29 (2) approve for participation in the pilot program only first-time
30 business owners of businesses in a designated industry.

31 c. The center shall determine the manner in which to provide a
32 reimbursement to a business participating in the pilot program
33 under this section, but the aggregate amount of all reimbursements
34 provided by the center shall not exceed \$500,000 in any one fiscal
35 year.

36 d. The center shall adopt regulations in accordance with the
37 "Administrative Procedure Act" P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
38 seq.) deemed necessary for the implementation and enforcement of
39 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

40 e. On or before February 1 of the pilot program’s second fiscal
41 year, the center shall conduct a review of the cumulative
42 effectiveness of the pilot program. The review shall include, but
43 not be limited to:

44 (1) the number and type of New Jersey businesses that were
45 formed in connection with the pilot program;

46 (2) the status of each business formed in connection with the
47 pilot program;

1 (3) the number of employees employed by each business
2 receiving a reimbursement under the pilot program;

3 (4) the economic impact to the State from the pilot program;

4 (5) the satisfaction of participants in the pilot program; and

5 (6) a recommendation concerning whether the pilot program
6 should be made permanent or continued for additional fiscal years.

7 f. The center shall compile a report based upon the review
8 required pursuant to subsection e. of this section and shall submit
9 the report to the Governor and, in accordance with section 2 of
10 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature.

11 g. For purposes of this section:

12 "Center" means the Business Action Center within the
13 Department of State established pursuant to Reorganization Plan
14 No. 003-2011.

15 "Designated industry" means a designated industry, as that term
16 is defined in section 2 of P.L.1996, c.26 (C.34:1B-125).

17 "Minority business" means a minority business as defined in
18 section 2 of P.L.1985, c.386 (C.34:1B-48).

19 "Pilot program" means the Entrepreneur Learner's Permit Pilot
20 Program administered by the Business Action Center within the
21 Department of State, as described in subsection a. of this section.

22 "Women's business" means a women's business as defined in
23 section 2 of P.L.1985, c.386 (C.34:1B-48).

24
25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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28 STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires the Business Action Center (BAC) within the
31 Department of State to establish an "Entrepreneur Learner's Permit
32 Pilot Program" (pilot program) to reimburse participating new
33 business entrepreneurs for fees related to the establishment of
34 certain new businesses.

35 Under the bill, the BAC is required to establish the pilot program
36 within six months after the effective date of the bill. The pilot
37 program is required to be administered by the BAC over a period of
38 two consecutive fiscal years, and is intended to assist first-time
39 entrepreneurs in starting new businesses in designated industries by
40 providing reimbursements to qualifying entrepreneurs for State
41 filing, permitting, or licensing fees associated with the formation of
42 a business in the State. Under the bill, in operation with existing
43 law, designated industries include the fields of biotechnology,
44 pharmaceuticals, financial services, transportation and logistics,
45 advanced computing, advanced materials, electronic device
46 technology, environmental technology, and medical device
47 technology.

1 The bill requires the BAC to establish criteria for the review and
2 approval of pilot program applications, including criteria to give
3 priority to women's and minority businesses and to prohibit
4 approval of applications by persons who are not first-time business
5 owners in designated industries. The bill further provides that the
6 BAC is to determine the manner in which to provide
7 reimbursements to participating entrepreneurs and limits the
8 aggregate amount of reimbursements under the pilot program to not
9 more than \$500,000 in any one fiscal year.

10 The bill requires the BAC to adopt rules to administer the pilot
11 program and to complete a review of the pilot program. The bill
12 further requires the BAC to compile a report based on its review
13 and to submit the report to the Governor and to the Legislature.