

SENATE, No. 4038

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes cybersecurity employment grant program for qualified businesses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a cybersecurity employment grant program in
2 the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and
3 supplementing P.L.1974, c.80 (C.34:1B-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
9 Legislature as this bill):

10 “Authority” means the New Jersey Economic Development
11 Authority established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1974, c.80
12 (C.34:1B-4).

13 “Cybersecurity specialist” means an information technology
14 specialist who monitors, detects, investigates, analyzes, and
15 responds to security events that target a business’s information
16 technology system with the goal of protecting the system from
17 cybersecurity risks, threats, and vulnerabilities.

18 “Program” means the cybersecurity employment grant program,
19 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
20 before the Legislature as this bill).

21 “Qualified small to mid-size business” means a business entity
22 employing fewer than 500 employees that, at the time of application
23 for participation in the program, is independently owned and
24 operated, operates primarily within this State, and which satisfies
25 other criteria that may be established by the authority.
26

27 2. There is established within the New Jersey Economic
28 Development Authority a cybersecurity employment grant program.
29 The program shall award grants, in an amount as determined by the
30 authority, to a qualified small to mid-sized business to assist with
31 the establishment and hiring of a cybersecurity specialist position
32 within the business at a location within this State. The award of a
33 grant to a qualified business shall be limited to the cost of
34 establishing and hiring a cybersecurity specialist and shall be
35 applied to cover the startup salary cost for a cybersecurity specialist
36 for one year.
37

38 3. In addition to any monies appropriated to the authority to
39 effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
40 Legislature as this bill), the program shall also be credited with:

41 a. any additional monies made available by the authority for
42 the purposes of the program; and

43 b. monies received by the authority from any public or private
44 source for the purposes of the program, the coordination and
45 consolidation of which shall enhance efforts to establish and hire
46 cybersecurity specialist positions within qualified small to mid-
47 sized businesses.

1 The authority is authorized to seek and accept gifts, grants, or
2 donations from private or public sources for funding the costs of the
3 program, except that the authority may not accept a gift, grant, or
4 donation that is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with any
5 other law of this State.

6

7 4. In order to be eligible for a grant awarded under the
8 program, an applicant shall:

9 a. submit proof that it is a qualified small to mid-size business,
10 as defined in this bill;

11 b. submit all of the documentation required by the authority to
12 receive a grant under the program; and

13 c. conform to all of the requirements of P.L. , c. (C.)
14 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

15

16 5. A small to mid-size business seeking to participate in the
17 program shall submit an application in a form and manner as the
18 authority shall require. The application shall include information
19 the authority determines is necessary to administer the program, and
20 to ensure the eligibility of applicants. The authority shall review
21 and may approve an application for the program.

22

23 6. The authority shall:

24 a. in consultation with the New Jersey Office of Homeland
25 Security and Preparedness, the Department of Banking and
26 Insurance, and the Office of the Attorney General, administer the
27 program to assist a qualified small to mid-size business with the
28 establishment and hiring of a cybersecurity specialist position
29 within that business. The grants awarded by the authority shall be
30 used solely for the purpose of hiring personnel approved by the
31 New Jersey Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Cell;

32 b. adopt rules and regulations requiring that not less than the
33 hourly or annual mean wage for the Bureau of Labor Statistics
34 federal job code 15-1212 is paid to cybersecurity specialists in the
35 metropolitan or nonmetropolitan area in which an employer is
36 located, pursuant to the most recently published Occupational
37 Employment Statistics wage survey; and

38 c. when setting the size of grants to be awarded under the
39 program, seek to balance available funds against the amount of a
40 grant necessary to incentivize an applicant to hire a cybersecurity
41 specialist and the unmet Statewide need among small and mid-size
42 businesses for cybersecurity staffing in order to maximize the
43 impact of limited funding availability.

44

45 7. a. Each qualified small to mid-size business grant recipient
46 shall provide quarterly reports to the authority verifying the
47 establishment and hiring of a cybersecurity specialist,
48 documentation of expenditures from a grant awarded by the

1 authority, and any other information required by the authority to
2 ensure compliance with the provisions of the program as
3 determined by the authority.

4 b. The authority shall report annually to the Governor and,
5 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
6 Legislature on the functioning of the program and whether the
7 program meets the needs of qualified small to mid-sized businesses.
8 The report shall include, but not be limited to, the number and
9 locations of qualified small to mid-sized businesses participating in
10 the program, the number of cybersecurity specialist positions
11 created or hired by those qualified small to mid-sized businesses,
12 and the amount of any grants awarded to those qualified small to
13 mid-sized businesses.

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15 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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20 This bill establishes a program in the New Jersey Economic
21 Development Authority (EDA) for the purpose of awarding grants
22 for the creation and establishment of cybersecurity specialist
23 positions in small to mid-sized businesses located in New Jersey.

24 Under the program, the EDA is to provide grants, in an amount
25 as determined by the EDA, to a “qualified small to mid-sized
26 business,” as that term is defined in the bill, to assist with the
27 establishment and hiring of a “cybersecurity specialist position,” as
28 defined in the bill, within that business.

29 The bill establishes eligibility requirements for business
30 participation in the program. Additionally, the bill designates the
31 responsibilities of both the EDA, such as the EDA’s responsibility
32 to work in conjunction with the New Jersey Office of Homeland
33 Security and Preparedness, the Department of Banking and
34 Insurance, and the Office of the Attorney General in administering
35 the program, and the participating small to mid-sized businesses,
36 such as the responsibility to provide quarterly reports to the EDA.