

ASSEMBLY, No. 464

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman ROMA

1 AN ACT establishing an entrepreneurial assistance network in the  
2 Division of Development for Small Businesses and Women's and  
3 Minority Businesses and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised  
4 Statutes.

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

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9 1. a. The Division of Development for Small Businesses and  
10 Women's and Minority Businesses in the Department of Commerce  
11 and Economic Development shall establish a toll-free telephone  
12 information line which shall be readily accessible to the public and  
13 shall provide information regarding entrepreneurial or business  
14 assistance programs available to small businesses, including sources of  
15 financing for training, micro-loans and venture capital, from the  
16 following entities:

- 17 (1) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development;  
18 (2) The New Jersey Economic Development Authority;  
19 (3) The Department of Labor;  
20 (4) The New Jersey small business development centers; and  
21 (5) Private organizations, individuals or corporations that provide  
22 technical assistance and services to small businesses in this State.

23 b. The telephone information line shall provide information  
24 regarding the nature of the assistance and benefits available from the  
25 programs provided by the entities set forth in subsection a. of this  
26 section, and shall provide information on how to access and apply for  
27 these programs.

28 c. To pay for the assistance provided to small businesses pursuant  
29 to this act the division shall make use of any available State or federal  
30 funding and shall solicit contributions from any private business  
31 organizations, individuals or corporations that provide technical  
32 assistance or services to small businesses.

33 d. The division may assess a fee, to be determined by the division,  
34 upon any private business organization, individual or corporation that  
35 wishes to have information regarding its small business assistance

1 programs available through the telephone information line. The fee  
2 shall not exceed the cost of providing the information regarding the  
3 business organization, individual or corporation to the public through  
4 the telephone information line. The fees collected pursuant to this  
5 subsection shall be used to pay for the services provided pursuant to  
6 this act.

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8 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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11 STATEMENT

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13 This bill establishes a toll-free telephone information line within the  
14 Division of Development for Small Businesses and Women's and  
15 Minority Businesses in the Department of Commerce and Economic  
16 Development to provide the public with information regarding  
17 entrepreneurial or business assistance programs available to small  
18 businesses from the following entities:

- 19 (1) The Department of Commerce and Economic Development;  
20 (2) The New Jersey Economic Development Authority;  
21 (3) The Department of Labor;  
22 (4) The New Jersey small business development centers; and  
23 (5) Private organizations, individuals or corporations that provide  
24 technical assistance to small businesses in this State.

25 The bill requires the telephone information line to provide  
26 information regarding the nature of the assistance and benefits  
27 available to small businesses and information regarding how to access  
28 and apply therefor.

29 To pay for the assistance provided to small businesses through the  
30 bill, the division shall make use of any available State or federal  
31 funding and shall solicit contributions from any private business  
32 organizations, corporations and individuals that provide technical  
33 assistance or services to small businesses.

34 The bill provides that the division may assess a fee to be determined  
35 by the division upon any private business organization, corporation or  
36 individual that wishes to have information regarding its small business  
37 assistance programs available through the telephone information line.  
38 These fees shall be used to pay for the services provided pursuant to  
39 the bill.

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44 Establishes an entrepreneurial assistance network to assist small  
45 businesses.