

## CHAPTER 165

AN ACT concerning certain business matchmaking events and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

### C.52:32-54.1 Definitions.

1. As used in P.L.2023, c.165 (C.52:32-54.1 et seq.):

“Business Action Center” or “center” means the Business Action Center established in the New Jersey Department of State pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 003-2011.

“Chief Diversity Officer” means the position established in the Division of Purchase and Property in the New Jersey Department of the Treasury pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2017, c.95 (C.52:32-18.1).

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of the Treasury.

“Matchmaking event” means an annual small business matchmaking event hosted pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2023, c.165 (C.52:32-54.2).

“Nonprofit corporation” means a private, not-for-profit corporation, determined by the federal Internal Revenue Service to be a tax exempt organization pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3), whose mission is to stimulate job creation within and attract capital investment to New Jersey.

“Small business” means a business engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in this State that qualifies as a “small business concern” within the meaning of the federal "Small Business Act," Pub.L.85-536 (15 U.S.C. s.631 et seq.) for the purpose of the small business’s eligibility for receiving assistance from the United States Small Business Administration. “Small business” shall include, but not be limited to, a small business established and operating in this State that is certified, pursuant to federal law, under the United States Small Business Administration’s 8(a) Business Development program or the HUBZone program, or as a small disadvantaged business, or as a business concern by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. s.1701u).

C.52:32-54.2 “Annual Business Matchmaking Event”, New Jersey Department of the Treasury Chief Diversity Officer, Business Action Center; report to Governor, Legislature.

2. a. The Chief Diversity Officer and the department, in partnership with the Business Action Center, shall host an annual program, to be known as the “Annual Business Matchmaking Event,” with the purpose of connecting small businesses with representatives of federal, State, and local government agencies and their government contractors seeking small businesses to provide the government contractor with subcontracting services. The matchmaking event shall be organized or structured to ensure that small businesses participating in the matchmaking event are informed of the government subcontracting service opportunities available to small businesses and that government contractors realize the potential of partnering with small businesses for subcontracting services. The Chief Diversity Officer and the department shall establish the terms and conditions by which a small business and government contractor may apply for participation in the matchmaking event. Prior to planning or scheduling the matchmaking event, the Chief Diversity Officer and the center shall coordinate to contact State and federal agencies to request that those agencies send any small business contact information, which shall be used by the Chief Diversity Officer and the center to solicit small businesses for participation in the matchmaking event.

b. The Chief Diversity Officer and the center are authorized to seek and accept gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources for the costs of hosting the matchmaking event, except that the Chief Diversity Officer and the center may not accept a gift, grant, or donation that is subject to conditions that are inconsistent with any other law of this State. The Chief Diversity Officer and the center may enter into an agreement with a nonprofit corporation to allow the nonprofit corporation to host the matchmaking event. The Chief Diversity Officer and the center shall coordinate the scheduling and promotion of the matchmaking event in conjunction with the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners, the New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, and the National Federation of Independent Business in New Jersey.

c. The Chief Diversity Officer, in partnership with the center, shall report no later than one year following each annual matchmaking event to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the number and percentage of subcontracts awarded to small businesses and the types of government contracting services provided to small businesses as a result of their participation in the annual matchmaking event.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved October 16, 2023.