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H.945

Introduced by Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; manufacturing; COVID-19

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a  
COVID-19 Manufacturing Grant Program.

An act relating to creating a COVID-19 Manufacturing Grant Program

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. COVID-19 MANUFACTURING GRANT PROGRAM

(a) Purpose.

(1) The purpose of this section is to establish a COVID-19

Manufacturing Grant Program to assist Vermont manufacturing companies

in quickly accelerating production of items necessary to respond to the

COVID-19 outbreak.

(2) The Program shall provide grants to manufacturers to increase

capacity in current operations and to pivot production to build and assemble

critical need items, including:

(A) personal protection equipment, including N95 respirators,

surgical masks, cloth masks, and isolation gowns;

(B) respiratory care equipment, including ventilators;

1           (C) medical devices; and

2           (D) other items identified by the State Emergency Operations Center  
3 as necessary for workplace and community safety.

4           (b) Eligible recipients. To be eligible for a grant, an applicant shall meet  
5 the following criteria:

6           (1) the applicant has demonstrated manufacturing capacity;

7           (2) the facility where the applicant manufactures qualifying products is  
8 located in Vermont; and

9           (3) the applicant has 500 or fewer employees or otherwise meets a Small  
10 Business Administration classification of small business or small  
11 manufacturer.

12           (c) Eligible use of funds. A recipient may use grant funds for the  
13 following:

14           (1) purchase and set up of production equipment;

15           (2) expenses necessary to produce critical care items;

16           (3) prototyping expenses for complex medical devices; and

17           (4) training expenses to train employees in the new production process  
18 and equipment.

19           (d) Amount of grants. A grant shall be one-time and shall not exceed  
20 \$20,000.00 per recipient.

21           (e) Administration of grants.

1           (1) The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall  
2           administer the grants in coordination with the Vermont Manufacturing  
3           Extension Center.

4           (2) The Agency, the Center, and regional development corporations  
5           shall publicize information about the Program and the application process.

6           (f) Reporting:

7           (1) The Agency shall report to the General Assembly bi-weekly during  
8           the pandemic crisis on the number of grants awarded, the projected and actual  
9           production volumes, and the number of entities receiving the products being  
10          produced.

11          (2) The Agency shall submit a final report on the Grant program on or  
12          before December 15, 2020.

13          (g) Funding. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development  
14          may use not more than \$500,000.00 to award grants pursuant to this act using  
15          funds appropriated to it for the New Remote Worker Grant Program created in  
16          2018 Acts and Resolves No. 197, Sec. 1, as amended by 2019 Acts and  
17          Resolves No. 80, Sec. 15 and the New Worker Relocation Incentive Program  
18          created by 2019 Acts and Resolves No. 80, Sec. 12.

19          Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

20          This act shall take effect on passage.