



MEMO OF SUPPORT

S9285 (Bailey) / A10330 (Dinowitz)

Establishes grant program for nonprofit news outlets

May 29, 2026

TITLE OF BILL

An act to amend the economic development law, in relation to the newspaper and broadcast media jobs program.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

Reinvent Albany strongly supports this bill because it will make the state's investment in media more equitable.

Last year, the state established the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program, which provided a tax credit for job creation in the media industry. While Reinvent Albany does not support off-budget checks as a form of economic development, if such a tax credit exists, then it would only be fair to set up a grant program for nonprofit news.

The United States is currently facing a news crisis that threatens our democracy. By one estimate, the country has lost [almost 40% of its newspapers since 2005](#). Nearly 55 million Americans have [only one or zero](#) local news sources. Research has shown that as local news declines, [the risk for corruption and graft](#) go up.

Funding nonprofit news will help citizens hold their representatives accountable. We urge the Legislature to pass the bill.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

Section 1 amends Economic Development Law §492(10) and adds a (14) – which regards the Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program – to include and define “eligible nonprofit news media organization” under the list of entities that may participate in the program (by receiving grants rather than tax credits).

Section 2 makes technical amendments Economic Development Law Section 496 and authorizes the commissioner of economic development to develop a grant award certificate.

Section 3 adds four new sections to Economic Development Law (497-500) outlining the “Nonprofit News Media Jobs Grant Program”:

- The program is subject to appropriation by the Legislature.
- The program shall not spend more than \$15,000,000 per year.
- Unspent funds shall be kept available for coming years.
- Eligible organizations shall:
 - Be nonprofit news media
 - Be located in New York, with at least a third of their audience located in New York
 - Be eligible to claim up to 50% per employee (up to \$50,000).

Applicants must allow for their records, such as employee information and evidence of eligibility, to be reviewed by Empire State Development. Awards will be made after ESD reviews the records to ensure the applicant meets the requirements. The bill also provides that no organization may receive both grants and tax credits in the same annual award period.

Section 4 states that the bill takes effect 180 days after becoming law.