

AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING CONDITIONS FOR
STATE EXPENDITURES FOR BUSINESS INCUBATORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. BUSINESS INCUBATORS--CONDITIONS FOR STATE
EXPENDITURES.--Business incubators receiving state funds shall
be required to pass a state incubator certification program
administered by the economic development department. The
department shall certify business incubators that submit
documentation to the department that the incubator has:

A. a mission statement that defines the
incubator's role to assist entrepreneurs and support the
growth of businesses;

B. for incubators established after the effective
date of this section, a formal feasibility study indicating an
appropriate market and local community support or, for
incubators established prior to the effective date of this
section, a business plan;

C. an effective governing board or an appropriate
oversight advisory board committed to the incubator's mission;

D. qualified management and staff to achieve the
mission of the incubator and to help businesses;

E. an ongoing business assistance program that
places the greatest value on client assistance and adds value

to client businesses by developing programs and coordinating activities such as:

- (1) technical assistance and consulting;
- (2) coaching and mentoring, business training workshops and seminars;
- (3) providing marketing assistance;
- (4) fostering networking opportunities and links with other business service providers; and
- (5) providing assistance in obtaining financing;

F. a facility that encourages innovation and provides dedicated space for incubator client firms with flexible leases and that includes a common area meeting space and business equipment;

G. a process for client businesses that involves a screening and selection process and graduation policy for client companies;

H. a system for program evaluation;

I. all applicable required licenses and permits and a functional accounting system; and

J. membership in the national business incubation association.
