



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Lea Webb

Senator Webb and the Majority Pass Legislation to Boost Small Businesses and MWBEs

LEA WEBB February 7, 2023

| ISSUE: [COMMERCE AND SMALL BUSINESS, MWBE, 2023 LEGISLATION](#)



Binghamton, NY - Senator Lea Webb and the Senate Majority today passed legislation to boost investment in small business and help grow minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBEs). The legislation advanced includes the creation of the New York State Innovation Voucher Program; the establishment of a matching grant program for recipients of the federal Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer grants; exempting independent arts contractors from a qualification to access the Small Business

Seed Funding Grant program; expanding eligibility to grants and flexible financing of the Urban Development Corporation Act to dry cleaning and cosmetic small businesses; requiring state agencies provide unsuccessful bidders that are certified MWBEs with a detailed statement detailing the reason for rejection; amending the Executive Law to clarify language concerning the maximum number of employees in a MWBEs company during a declared state emergency, and directing all contracting state agencies to develop a three-year growth plan to increase MWBEs' participation in contract bidding.

“Small businesses across Upstate New York were hit hard by the pandemic and many are still struggling to rebuild and stay afloat, said **Senator Lea Webb**. “This package of legislation will provide much-needed support to small businesses across my district, promoting economic growth and accelerating the creation of new, good-paying jobs. I am proud to pass my bill to support our minority and women-owned businesses, to make it easier for these enterprises to access resources during a state disaster emergency. It is critical that we continue to put forth legislation that protects our small businesses and enables them to grow and sustain our economy.”

The small business and MWBE assistance package passed by the Senate Democratic Majority includes:

- **Maximum Number of MWBEs Employees During a Declared State of Emergency:** This bill, [S.1873](#), sponsored by Senator Lea Webb amends the Executive Law to clarify that an MWBE may have a maximum of 300 employees who work 30 hours or more per week during a declared state disaster emergency. This clarification would allow MWBEs to address unanticipated emergency staffing needs during a declared state of emergency without losing their certification.

- **Growth Plan for MWBEs Participation in State Contracts:** This bill, [S.1424](#), sponsored by Senator Jamaal Bailey, directs contracting state agencies to develop a three-year growth plan to increase participation of MWBEs with respect to state contracts and subcontracts.
- **Expand Eligibility of Grant Programs of the Urban Development Corporation Act:** This bill, [S.702](#), sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie expands eligibility of the Urban Development Corporation Act to allow dry cleaning businesses, nail salons and other small businesses to access grants and flexible financing programs to make capital improvements to comply with new environmental protection and workplace safety regulations.
- **Written Statement of Rejection for MWBEs Bids:** This bill, [S.1419](#), sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie would require state agencies to provide certified MWBEs that unsuccessfully bid for a state contract a written statement outlining the reasons for rejection and provide guidance for improving future bids.
- **Exception to Qualification for the Small Business Seed Funding Grant Program:** This bill, [S.579](#), sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal amends the NYS Urban Development Corporation Act to provide an exception that eases the path for independent arts contractors to qualify for the small business seed grant funding program.
- **Establishes Matching Grant Program for Recipients of Certain Federal Small Business Grants:** This bill, [S.1824](#), sponsored by Senator Sean Ryan establishes a matching grant program for small businesses receiving funding under the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program or the Small Business Technology Transfer Program to promote commercialization and job growth. This bill also requires businesses receiving these matching grants to remain headquartered in New York for at least five years.
- **Creates the New York State Innovation Voucher Program:** This bill, [S.1862](#), sponsored by Senator Sean Ryan establishes the New York Innovation Voucher Program to provide small businesses with access to vouchers to assist with research and development by colleges and universities, government laboratories, and public research institutes in order

to assist such businesses in the creation of innovative products or services.

###

RELATED LEGISLATION

2023-S579

- Introduced

- ◦ In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

-

Provides an exception to qualification for the small business seed funding grant program for independent arts contractors

January 05, 2023

In Senate Committee [Corporations, Authorities and Commissions](#)

Sponsored by [Brad Hoylman-Sigal](#)

Do you support this bill?

2023-S1873

- Introduced

- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

-

[Relates to the maximum number of employees that a minority and women-owned business enterprise may have during a declared state disaster emergency or other emergency or critical need](#)

January 17, 2023

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Lea Webb](#)

Do you support this bill?

2023-S1424

- Introduced
 - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
 - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

[Directs contracting state agencies to develop a growth plan in order to increase participation of MWBEs with respect to state contracts and subcontracts](#)

January 11, 2023

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by [Jamaal T. Bailey](#)

Do you support this bill?

2023-S702

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Vetoed By Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

[Relates to assistance for certain small businesses](#)

January 06, 2023

Vetoed

Sponsored by [Leroy Comrie](#)

Do you support this bill?

NAY

2023-S1419

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Vetoed By Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to requiring agencies to provide unsuccessful bidders that are certified minority and women-owned business enterprises with a written statement articulating the reasons for rejection

January 11, 2023

Vetoed

Sponsored by **Leroy Comrie**

Do you support this bill?

2023-S1824

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Establishes a matching grant program for certain small businesses receiving funding under the federal small business innovation research program or the small business technology transfer program

January 17, 2023

In Senate Committee [Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business](#)

Sponsored by [Sean M. Ryan](#)

Do you support this bill?

2023-S1862

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
- - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate
- - Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to establishing the New York state innovation voucher program

January 17, 2023

In Senate Committee [Finance](#)

Sponsored by [Sean M. Ryan](#)

Do you support this bill?