



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruth Hassell-Thompson

## Governor Paterson Signs Four MWBE Bills into Law

RUTH HASSELL-THOMPSON July 19, 2010

| ISSUE: **MWBE (DIVISION OF MINORITY AND WOMEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT)**

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Governor David A. Paterson signed four ground-breaking bills into law, including legislation that creates a level playing field for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) in New York State. Two of the bills were Governor's Program Bills.

"With these pieces of legislation, our State is building on its proud history of opening the door to opportunity for every New Yorker who has the talent, drive and passion for their business to succeed," Governor Paterson said. "While there is still much work to be done to correct disparities in government contracting. By improving the State procurement process and facilitating greater access for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, we help businesses thrive, and we will help our State recover from recession."

Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson said: "These bills intend to bring our State procurement process into the 21st Century by removing barriers that have historically prevented women and persons of color from achieving economic parity with respect to contracting opportunities in this State. By the year 2040 more than 50 percent of the population of New York State will be made up of what are termed 'minority groups.' Large corporations have already sought to prepare for this eventuality by engaging in a process known as 'Supplier Diversity.' The State has lagged behind even the private sector with respect to its contract expenditures for Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (MWBEs). The four bill package, also known as the New York State Supplier Diversity Act ensures that the State's fiduciary-controlled entities, public authorities and agencies have developed and codified a strategy aimed at inclusion and meaningful participation of MWBEs in State contracting. These bills go a long way to ensure that best-practices are institutionalized and that contracting opportunities are readily available for qualified MWBEs."

In June 2008, Governor Paterson issued Executive Order No. 10, which established the Task Force on Minority and Women Business Enterprises. As a result of the Executive Order and the work of the Task Force, MWBE participation quadrupled. The firms that are involved with investment banking and the issuance of municipal bonds went from 4.2 percent MWBE in 2007 to 23.9 percent now. Under Governor Paterson's leadership, minority and women firms have yielded an increase of \$162 million in revenue from prior year levels. With respect to transportation, thirteen percent of stimulus transportation projects have gone to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises – for a total of \$146 million dollars and an estimated 3,500 jobs created or saved.

*The following MWBE bills were signed into law:*

