



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew Gounardes

Senator Gounardes And Senate Majority Helps Small Businesses Build Back From COVID-19

ANDREW GOUNARDES January 20, 2021

| ISSUE: **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC; COVID-19; SMALL BUSINESS**

Brooklyn, NY - Senator Gounardes, together with the Senate Majority, advanced legislation to support small businesses that have taken the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. This action builds on [legislation](#) passed in July 2020 to help hardworking New Yorkers and struggling small businesses. The legislative package advanced by the Senate Majority includes protecting small businesses from eviction and foreclosure with the COVID-19 Emergency Protect Our Small Business Act, protecting restaurants from third-party delivery fees, implementing third-party restaurant posting requirements, promoting the shared work eligibility program, freezing unemployment insurance rates, and establishing a partial-unemployment system.

“Small businesses are the engine of our economy and what make our neighborhoods great places to live,” said **Senator Andrew Gounardes**. “Without them, Brooklyn wouldn’t be Brooklyn and New York wouldn’t be New York. Throughout the devastation of the COVID crisis, I have worked hard to reach out to businesses in my community and advocate for their needs. Today, we are passing legislation that will help them keep their doors open until

we can turn our attention to the recovery. And yet, there is so much more we can and must do to help our small businesses succeed at the federal, state and local level. I urge everyone to put their money where their heart is and support local businesses through this difficult time as we take steps today to protect and support local businesses here in New York.”

The bills advanced by Senator Gounardes and the Senate Majority include:

- Small Business Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium: This bill, [S.471A](#), sponsored by Senator Anna Kaplan, establishes the COVID-19 Emergency Protect Our Small Business Act to protect small businesses with COVID-19 related financial hardships from eviction and foreclosure until May 1.
- Third-Party Restaurant Posting: This bill, [S.1630A](#), sponsored by Senator Diane Savino, prohibits any third party food delivery platform from listing, selling or advertising products of any food service establishment without a written agreement with them.
- Restricting Third-Party Delivery Fees: This bill, [S.1554B](#), sponsored by Senator Brian Kavanagh, creates a maximum limit for the total fee that can be charged to a food service establishment by a third-party food delivery service (such as Grubhub, Seamless, Postmates, Doordash, etc.)
- Increased Outreach From DOL on the Shared Work Program: This bill, [S.18A](#), sponsored by Senator Shelley Mayer, creates a requirement for the Department of Labor to increase their efforts to provide information to employers about shared work program eligibility and have information available on the Department's website. The shared work program can help reduce layoffs and is fully funded by the federal CARES Act during the pandemic.

- Freezing Employers Unemployment Insurance Premiums: This bill, [S.1197](#), sponsored by Senator Roxanne Persaud, freezes New York State's unemployment insurance experience rating for one year for layoffs and closures that occurred due to COVID-19. This action will prevent significant increases in costs to employers who have experienced higher unemployment rates in 2020.
- Partial Unemployment Insurance: This bill, [S.1042A](#), sponsored by Senator Jessica Ramos, establishes a system of partial-unemployment. This would shift the current calculation that any day of work leads to a 25% reduction in benefits, and instead would reduce benefits by an amount proportional with the amount earned. This legislation will help incentivize part-time work by reducing the disincentive that a day of work will lead to a disproportionate reduction of benefits.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S471A

[and Small Business, Coronavirus Pandemic; COVID-19; Small Business](#)

- 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 eviction and foreclosure protections

December 31, 2020

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Anna M. Kaplan](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1630A

- 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 third-party delivery services

January 14, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Diane J. Savino](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1554B

- 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 third-party food delivery service charges

January 13, 2021

In Senate Committee [Rules](#)

Sponsored by [Brian Kavanagh](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S18A

- 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
-

Requires the department of labor to provide information to employers about shared work program eligibility and benefits

December 17, 2020

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Shelley B. Mayer**

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1197

- 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
-

Prohibits the inclusion of claims for unemployment insurance arising from the closure of an employer due to COVID-19 from being included in such employer's experience rating charges

January 08, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by [Roxanne J. Persaud](#)

Do you support this bill?

2021-S1042A

- 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 calculation of weekly unemployment insurance and the repeal of certain provisions relating thereto

January 06, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Jessica Ramos**

Do you support this bill?