

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, **may possibly** be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Brent Johnson - For South Jersey Times, 'New state law speeds up jobless benefits to strikers', *South Jersey Times*(online), 26 Apr 2023 003

Brent Johnson - For The Star-Ledger, 'Law speeds up jobless benefits to strikers Murphy signs bill hailed by unions leaders as strongest such legislation in the nation.', *Star-Ledger, The* (online), 25 Apr 2023 013

Brent Johnson - For South Jersey Times, 'Gov signs laws to help small businesses after pandemic Brent Johnson For South Jersey Times', *South Jersey Times* (online), 22 Mar 2023 001

C/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 27, *approved March 20, 2023*
Assembly, No. 4749

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Business Action Center and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The executive director of the New Jersey Business Action
8 Center in the Department of State shall establish and maintain, in
9 collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development
10 Authority, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the
11 New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of
12 commerce across the State, a publicly available small business
13 manual that provides information and guidance on establishing,
14 maintaining, and expanding a small business.

15 b. The manual shall be succinct, with a focus on brevity, and
16 shall contain, after discussion with all collaborators in subsection a.
17 of this section, the most important priorities when establishing,
18 maintaining, and expanding a small business. The contents of the
19 manual shall also include, but not be limited to, information
20 concerning:

21 (1) State and local permits and inspections;

22 (2) financial assistance programs;

23 (3) lease contracts;

24 (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on
25 how to acquire commercial real estate; and

26 (5) any other information that the executive director deems
27 necessary.

28 c. The executive director shall additionally solicit information
29 from the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of
30 Environmental Protection, the Economic Development Authority,
31 and other relevant departments and agencies on frequently asked
32 questions that a small business owner may have when establishing,
33 maintaining, or expanding a small business. Responses collected by
34 the executive director shall be included in the manual.

35 d. The manual shall be made available to the public one year
36 next following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
37 before the Legislature as this bill). The executive director shall
38 update the information contained in the manual periodically.

39 e. As used in this section, “publicly available” means to post in
40 a conspicuous manner on the Internet website of the New Jersey

1 Business Action Center and in a hard copy made available for a
2 nominal fee.

3

4 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following
5 enactment, except that the executive director of the New Jersey
6 Business Action Center may take any anticipatory administrative
7 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
8 the act.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC)
14 to establish and maintain a publicly available small business
15 manual.

16 Under the bill, the BAC will be required to establish and
17 maintain, in collaboration with the EDA, New Jersey Business and
18 Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and
19 regional chambers of commerce across the State, a publicly
20 available small business manual that provides information and
21 guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small
22 business.

23 The bill also provides that the contents of the manual will
24 include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

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27 (3) lease contracts;

28 (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on
29 how to acquire commercial real estate; and

30 (5) any other information that the executive director deems
31 necessary.

32 The bill provides that the manual will be made available to the
33 public one year following the bill's effective date, and that the
34 executive director will be required to update the information
35 contained in the manual periodically.

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40 Requires NJ Business Action Center to collect and produce
41 certain information to assist small businesses.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

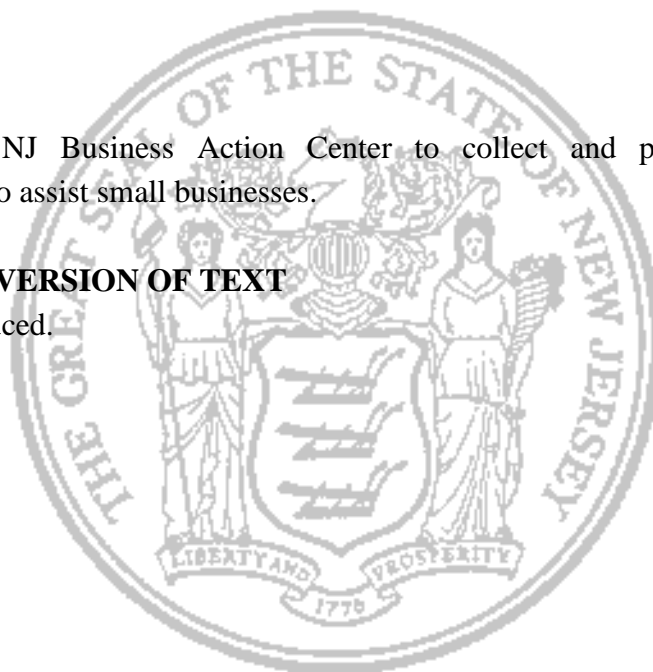
Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblymen Karabinchak, Tully, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Lampitt, Assemblymen Benson, Atkins, Freiman, Assemblywomen McKnight, Park, Senators Diegnan, Gill, Greenstein, Pou and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ Business Action Center to collect and produce certain information to assist small businesses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/2/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Business Action Center and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. The executive director of the New Jersey Business Action
8 Center in the Department of State shall establish and maintain, in
9 collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development
10 Authority, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the
11 New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of
12 commerce across the State, a publicly available small business
13 manual that provides information and guidance on establishing,
14 maintaining, and expanding a small business.

15 b. The manual shall be succinct, with a focus on brevity, and
16 shall contain, after discussion with all collaborators in subsection a.
17 of this section, the most important priorities when establishing,
18 maintaining, and expanding a small business. The contents of the
19 manual shall also include, but not be limited to, information
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29 from the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of
30 Environmental Protection, the Economic Development Authority,
31 and other relevant departments and agencies on frequently asked
32 questions that a small business owner may have when establishing,
33 maintaining, or expanding a small business. Responses collected by
34 the executive director shall be included in the manual.

35 d. The manual shall be made available to the public one year
36 next following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
37 before the Legislature as this bill). The executive director shall
38 update the information contained in the manual periodically.

39 e. As used in this section, “publicly available” means to post in
40 a conspicuous manner on the Internet website of the New Jersey
41 Business Action Center and in a hard copy made available for a
42 nominal fee.

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44 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following
45 enactment, except that the executive director of the New Jersey
46 Business Action Center may take any anticipatory administrative
47 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
48 the act.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC) to establish and maintain a publicly available small business manual.

Under the bill, the BAC will be required to establish and maintain, in collaboration with the EDA, New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of commerce across the State, a publicly available small business manual that provides information and guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small business.

The bill also provides that the contents of the manual will include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

- (1) State and local permits and inspections;
- (2) financial assistance programs;
- (3) lease contracts;
- (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on how to acquire commercial real estate; and
- (5) any other information that the executive director deems necessary.

The bill provides that the manual will be made available to the public one year following the bill's effective date, and that the executive director will be required to update the information contained in the manual periodically.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 20, 2022

The Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4749.

This bill requires the New Jersey Business Action Center (“BAC”) to establish and maintain a publicly available small business manual.

Under the bill, the BAC will be required to establish and maintain, in collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of commerce across the State, a publicly available small business manual that provides information and guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small business.

The bill also provides that the contents of the manual will include, but not be limited to, information concerning:

- (1) State and local permits and inspections;
- (2) financial assistance programs;
- (3) lease contracts;
- (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on how to acquire commercial real estate; and
- (5) any other information that the BAC’s executive director deems necessary.

The bill provides that the manual will be made available to the public one year following the bill’s effective date, and that the BAC’s executive director will be required to update the information contained in the manual periodically.

ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 05, 2022

The Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4749.

This bill requires the New Jersey Business Action Center (“BAC”) to establish and maintain a publicly available small business manual.

Under the bill, the BAC will be required to establish and maintain, in collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of commerce across the State, a publicly available small business manual that provides information and guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small business.

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- (5) any other information that the BAC’s executive director deems necessary.

The bill provides that the manual will be made available to the public one year following the bill’s effective date, and that the BAC’s executive director will be required to update the information contained in the manual periodically.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4749.

As reported, this bill would require the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC) to establish and maintain a small business manual, which would be made publicly available and would provide information and guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small business. In developing the manual, the BAC would be required to collaborate with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of commerce across the State.

At a minimum, the small business manual would be required to include information concerning: (1) State and local permits and inspections; (2) financial assistance programs; (3) lease contracts; (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on how to acquire commercial real estate; and (5) any other information that the executive director of the BAC deems necessary.

Under the bill, the small business manual would be made available to the public one year following the effective date of the bill. Thereafter, the executive director of the BAC would be required to periodically update the information contained in the manual.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3204, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE, No. 3204

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 13, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Diegnan, Gill, Greenstein, Pou and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Requires NJ Business Action Center to collect and produce certain information to assist small businesses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/2/2023)

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24 (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on
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26 (5) any other information that the executive director deems
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28 c. The executive director shall additionally solicit information
29 from the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of
30 Environmental Protection, the Economic Development Authority,
31 and other relevant departments and agencies on frequently asked
32 questions that a small business owner may have when establishing,
33 maintaining, or expanding a small business. Responses collected by
34 the executive director shall be included in the manual.

35 d. The manual shall be made available to the public one year
36 next following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
37 before the Legislature as this bill). The executive director shall
38 update the information contained in the manual periodically.

39 e. As used in this section, “publicly available” means to post in
40 a conspicuous manner on the Internet website of the New Jersey
41 Business Action Center and in a hard copy made available for a
42 nominal fee.

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44 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day next following
45 enactment, except that the executive director of the New Jersey
46 Business Action Center may take any anticipatory administrative
47 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
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1 STATEMENT

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23 public one year following the bill's effective date, and that the
24 executive director will be required to update the information
25 contained in the manual periodically.

SENATE ECONOMIC GROWTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3204

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2023

The Senate Economic Growth Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3204.

As reported, this bill would require the New Jersey Business Action Center (BAC) to establish and maintain a small business manual, which would be made publicly available and would provide information and guidance on establishing, maintaining, and expanding a small business. In developing the manual, the BAC would be required to collaborate with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, and regional chambers of commerce across the State.

At a minimum, the small business manual would be required to include information concerning: (1) State and local permits and inspections; (2) financial assistance programs; (3) lease contracts; (4) commercial real estate transactions, including methods on how to acquire commercial real estate; and (5) any other information that the executive director of the BAC deems necessary.

Under the bill, the small business manual would be made available to the public one year following the effective date of the bill. Thereafter, the executive director of the BAC would be required to periodically update the information contained in the manual.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4749, which was also reported by the committee on this date.

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Support New Jersey Small Businesses

Posted on - 03/20/2023

Bills Are Part of Speaker Coughlin's Small Business Legislative Package

Legislation Enhances Customer Service at the New Jersey Business Action Center and Gives Small Businesses More Flexibility to Resolve Violations Without Incurring Fines

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed three bills into law to support New Jersey small businesses. A-4748/S-3195 and A-4749/S-3204 enhance the customer service experience at the New Jersey Business Action Center by establishing a publicly available small business manual and collecting and disseminating customer assistance metrics information, respectively. A-4753/S-3208 allows a cure period for businesses to address and resolve certain violations. Together, these bills will make life easier for small business owners while bolstering New Jersey's standing as an attractive place for starting and growing a business.

"Today we underscore once again that economic opportunity is abundant and accessible in New Jersey, especially for the small businesses that line our main streets and under local communities," **said Governor Murphy**. "I thank Assembly Speaker Coughlin for leading the preparation of this comprehensive bill package, which will ensure that we continue to respond to the needs and concerns of small business owners as effectively as possible. This legislation will enable us to attract, retain, and inspire small businesses to expand in a state that remains at the national forefront of economic vitality and innovation."

"The Business Action Center exists to help New Jersey companies navigate how state government rules and resources impact their operations," **said New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way**. "This legislation strengthens the Business Action Center and ensures that it is responsive to the needs of the constituents we serve."

"Helping New Jersey's small businesses thrive and grow was one of the top priorities we identified at the outset of this session. These bills are essential to our efforts. We thank Governor Murphy for signing these bills," **said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin**. "We also appreciate the valuable insights provided by business leaders to the Assembly members who crafted this legislation. From mom-and-pop shops to our tech start-ups, small businesses contribute to the unique and defining character that make New Jersey communities the best of places people want to live and raise a family."

"As inflationary pressures and other economic uncertainties continue to linger for business owners in New Jersey, the last thing they need to worry about is a steep fine or punishment for a minor, often unintentional violation. This law [A-4753/S-3208] will give them a little breathing room and reasonable extra time to come into full compliance," **said Senator Vi Gopal**.

"The Business Action Center provides invaluable guidance to business owners throughout the State. This law would identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Center in response to customer inquiries and formulate trainings or strategies to improve the services provided. Enhancing customer service will ensure that business owners are maximizing available resources," **said Senator Fred Madden**.

"Starting a small business and making it go, especially in that first year, can be daunting. Given our uncertain economic climate, even the most well thought out business plan can go awry. Fortunately though, there is useful information available to help new businesses navigate those challenges and gain a solid foothold for future success," **said Senator Al Zwickler**.

"For small business owners, the fines associated with minor violations can be a significant setback," **said Assemblyman Roy Freiman**. "By giving businesses the opportunity to fix harmless mistakes without being subjected to penalties, we make good on our commitment to create an environment that attracts new businesses to our State and allows those already here to prosper."

"Being a good steward of taxpayer money means we need to maximize our investments into programs, like the Small Business Improvement Grant," **said Assemblyman Paul Moore**.