

# STATE OF NEW YORK

9004

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

August 13, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BORES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Small Business

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the small business working group

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "small  
2 business forward act".

3 § 2. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 384 to read  
4 as follows:

5 § 384. Small business working group. 1. There is hereby created in the  
6 executive department, no later than six months after the effective date  
7 of this section, a small business working group consisting of:

8 (a) the director of the division of building standards and codes, or  
9 such director's designee;

10 (b) the director of the division of licensing services, or such direc-  
11 tor's designee;

12 (c) the commissioner of health, or such commissioner's designee;

13 (d) the commissioner of the department of environmental conservation,  
14 or such commissioner's designee;

15 (e) the commissioner of the department of agriculture and markets, or  
16 such commissioner's designee;

17 (f) the heads of such other departments or divisions within the execu-  
18 tive department and such other state agencies as shall be designated by  
19 the governor, or their designees, including, when appropriate, such  
20 departments, divisions or agencies with subject matter expertise in  
21 public health, inspections, or small businesses;

22 (g) two members appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of  
23 the temporary president of the senate;

24 (h) two members appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of  
25 speaker of the assembly;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13533-02-5

1 (i) one member appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of  
2 the minority leader of the senate; and

3 (j) one member appointed by the governor upon the recommendation of  
4 the minority leader of the assembly.

5 2. The department shall provide necessary technical and staff assist-  
6 ance to the working group. Any department, division, board, bureau,  
7 commission, authority or agency of the state, as such entity shall  
8 determine appropriate, is authorized to provide such information, coop-  
9 eration, or assistance as may be requested by the working group to carry  
10 out the purposes of this section.

11 3. The president of the empire state development corporation shall  
12 serve, ex officio, as the chair of the working group, and the governor  
13 shall designate the vice chair of the working group. In appointing  
14 members of the working group, appointing authorities shall ensure that  
15 such members, as a group, represent diverse public health and business  
16 perspectives relevant to the duties of the working group. The members of  
17 the working group, except those who serve ex officio, shall be allowed  
18 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
19 duties under this article but shall receive no additional compensation  
20 for services rendered pursuant to this article.

21 4. The working group shall have the following powers and responsibil-  
22 ities:

23 (a) to identify the twenty-five provisions of law or rules that are  
24 most frequently enforced through the issuance of notices of violation by  
25 or on behalf of each inspection office and agency, and, to the extent  
26 practicable, identify those violations that are most frequently issued  
27 to small businesses;

28 (b) to evaluate each provision of law or rule identified pursuant to  
29 paragraph (a) of this subdivision and determine whether:

30 (i) such provision is necessary to promote an important public  
31 purpose, and, if not, assess whether such provision should be amended or  
32 repealed to better effectuate the public purpose at issue;

33 (ii) civil penalties established to enforce such provision are in an  
34 amount appropriate to achieve the public purpose sought to be achieved  
35 by the provision or, whether such civil penalties should be reduced; and

36 (iii) any such provision establishing such civil penalties requires a  
37 warning or cure period for persons who violate such provision for the  
38 first time, or whether rules should be adopted implementing such a warn-  
39 ing or cure period.

40 (c) to specify whether legislation, rulemaking, or any other adminis-  
41 trative reform, is recommended for each provision of law or rule identi-  
42 fied pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision and to seek input  
43 from each inspection office or agency which enforces such provision;

44 (d) to explain the reason for each provision of law or rule identified  
45 pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision for which such the working  
46 group determines that neither legislation, rulemaking, nor any other  
47 administrative reform is recommended pursuant to paragraph (c) of this  
48 subdivision, including but not limited to, specifying the safety or  
49 health risks that could ensue from any change to such provision;

50 (e) to the extent practicable, to receive and respond to inquiries,  
51 including data requests, and recommendations; and

52 (f) to report its findings and recommendations to the governor, the  
53 temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly, the  
54 minority leader of the senate, and the minority leader of the assembly.

55 The working group may at any time make recommendations to an agency

1 based upon the working group's review of such agency's rulemaking proc-  
2 ess, or any of such agency's proposed, revised or adopted rules.

3 5. If any appointments to the working group are not made within six  
4 months of the effective date of this section, then the working group may  
5 proceed to meet and fulfill its responsibilities, pursuant to subdivi-  
6 sion four of this section without such appointees.

7 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.