

Small-Business-Impact Law Improved

There's good news for small-business owners tired of new regulations that hamper their ability to run their businesses. A new law (Chapter 181) will require state agencies to prepare an economic-impact statement on proposed rules that may have an adverse effect on small business. We worked with Rep. Chris Rector (Thomaston), the sponsor, and SBA Regional Advocate Steve Adams to secure this important improvement to Maine's rulemaking process.

THE NEW LAW SPECIFICALLY REQUIRES AGENCIES TO:

- Identify the types and estimate the number of small businesses subject to a new rule.
- Identify the projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
- Briefly describe the probable impact on affected small businesses.
- Describe any less intrusive or less costly reasonable alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

We will be working with public officials to ensure the new law is properly implemented and to identify additional aspects that warrant attention.

Does Maine Owe You Money?

ARE YOU PAYING PROPERTY TAXES on business equipment that you've bought as long ago as April 1995? More importantly, are you claiming a reimbursement from the state for property taxes paid on this equipment?

A review of businesses that use the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program suggests that many companies may be neglecting to file for property-tax refunds to which they are entitled. Large firms routinely claim reimbursements, but many small businesses do not.

Only the prior year's taxes can be claimed, and some equipment—office furniture, lamps, lighting fixtures, air conditioning and plumbing, for example—are not eligible.

The 2007 BETR program is scheduled to begin in August. For more information or the 2007 BETR tax-refund form, please visit www.maine.gov/revenue/taxrelief/betr.htm or contact your accountant.

Support the Right to Repair in Maine

YOUR CAR IS IMPORTANT to you and your business—it gets you, your employees and your family where you need to go. Advances in vehicle technology are making cars safer, more fuel-efficient and more enjoyable for drivers. But they're also making cars more complex, creating a demand for new tools and information to diagnose and repair your vehicle.

Some automotive companies are restricting access to or increasing the cost of these tools and information in an

attempt to shut out independent repair shops and force you to go back to the dealership for even the simplest of repairs. Fewer options for consumers only means one thing—higher costs and less convenience.

Join our efforts to pass legislation (LD 1210), sponsored by Sen. Dennis Damon (Trenton), that would require all automobile manufacturers to provide all repair facilities in Maine with the information necessary to diagnose problems, service

NFIB Congratulates 2007 Maine Young Entrepreneur Award Recipients

THE NFIB YOUNG Entrepreneur Foundation announced that four Maine high-school seniors were winners of the 2007 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Awards, a scholarship program that sets students on the path to entrepreneurship. Maine recipients were:

- Adam Dube of Greene
- Rebecca Toothaker of Newburgh
- Alexander Gallant of Bangor
- Kassandre Moulton of Athens

The recipients will attend the university, college, community college or vocational/technical institute of their choice with \$1,000 in tuition assistance. Scholarships are awarded thanks to financial support from numerous small-business leaders, and corporate and foundation supporters.

Would you like to contribute to a scholarship or nominate an applicant? Students graduating in the spring of 2008 are eligible to apply for a 2008 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award beginning Nov. 12, 2007, through Feb. 11, 2008. NFIB members wishing to sponsor a student for a YEF award can do so beginning Feb. 22, 2008, through March 24, 2008. Contributions to the Young Entrepreneur Foundation are welcome at any time. For more information visit www.NFIB.com/yef.

and repair your automobile.

This important bill could mean thousands in savings for you or your business during the lifetime of your vehicle. This issue was taken up in committee and will be scheduled for a vote in 2008, which means members have a unique window of opportunity to contact their legislators and urge them to support this bill.

To contact your elected officials, go to www.NFIB.com/ME and click on "Contact Your Lawmakers."