

April  
2007

# The Capitol Voice

Your Monthly NFIB Legislative Update

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If you need help finding the contact information for your lawmakers, please go to

**[www.NFIB.com/AZ](http://www.NFIB.com/AZ)**

click on "2007 Legislative Contact Information."

We also post updates on the legislation as the bill moves through the 2007 session.

## Training to Fit Individual Small Business Needs

Guest writer David Drennon, Director of Community & Public Affairs, Arizona Department of Commerce



Designing and delivering training plans that meet unique industry standards and challenges of Arizona's small and emerging businesses is the focus of the Arizona Job Training Program. The Arizona Department of Commerce revised the program rules to benefit more small and rural businesses, and in just the last two years the result is a nearly 40 percent increase in funding for entrepreneurs.

One of the newest uses of the program is a small business consortium grant application in which chambers and other non-profits leverage the financial benefits to help community employers upgrade workers' skills and enhance each company's competitiveness in the global economy.

The Arizona Job Training Program has numerous benefits:

- Employees benefit by receiving advanced job training.
- Business firms benefit from having a highly skilled workforce.
- The state and local communities benefit by receiving sales, income, and property tax revenue.

Under the "Net New Hire" portion of the grant program, businesses can apply for grants that return up to 75 percent of the costs of training net new employees in jobs that meet wage criteria. The "Incumbent Worker" portion of the grant program allows for training that upgrades the skills of existing employees, covering up to 50 percent of allowable training costs.

For more information about the Job Training Program visit the Workforce Development Section of the Arizona Department of Commerce Web site at [www.azcommerce.com](http://www.azcommerce.com) or contact Paula Burnam, at (602) 771-1100.

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## House/Senate Wrap Up Committee Hearings on Bills



As March 2007 came to a close, so too, did House and Senate committee hearings. The only committees with authorization to meet in April are the Appropriations and Rules committees.

With the hearings out of the way, lawmakers can focus on finalizing the Fiscal Year 2008 state budget and moving bills through final passage in the full bodies of the House and Senate.

Please check the NFIB/AZ Web site to see which bills are still moving through the legislative process.