



IMPORTANT BUSINESS LEGISLATION FROM THE 132ND OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HB 27 – Workers’ Comp Statute of Limitations: The Bureau of Workers’ Compensation budget bill included an NFIB driven provision that reduces the timeframe to file a claim from two years to one year. This change does not impact occupational diseases or cumulative trauma disorders.

HB 49 – Municipal Tax Filings: The state operating budget bill contained a key provision permitting business owners to opt-in through the Ohio Business Gateway to allow businesses to decide whether to use a centralized filing system for municipal net-profit returns or continue to file with individual municipalities.

SB 8 – Budget Corrections Bill: The bill contains an important repeal of a provision that allowed the Office of Budget and Management Director to take a portion of the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation and Industrial Commission administrative funds and direct to the general revenue fund. Those funds are for administration of injured workers claims and are funded by employers.

HB 478 – Wireless Technology: The bill eliminates what may be a protracted local government approval process grants easier access to wireless companies to install upgraded, 5g technology. NFIB supports our members ability to access the latest technology to help improve their businesses while preserving the ability of local governments and citizens to manage their local landscape.

SB 226 – Permanent Sales Tax Holiday: The bill makes permanent the temporary sales tax holidays enacted over the past several years. A study indicates the benefits to local communities through increased spending on these days on non-eligible exempt purchases. Ohio will have an advantage over our neighboring states that do not have sales tax holidays.

SB 221 – Agency Rulemaking Requirements: The bill offers a new right to the regulated community, allowing a petition to have a rule called up with the statutorily required five-year process should an adverse/unintended impact arise. It also encourages state agencies to implement rules instead of internal agency policy(s) and requires state agencies to make available any texts that are incorporated by reference, so businesses do not have to incur the cost of purchasing.

HB 271 – Americans with Disabilities Act Violations (ADA): The bill requires an alleged aggrieved party affected by an accessibility violation to first file notice with the property owner before seeking a civil action, allowing a property owner 90 days to remedy. It helps to ensure business owners are not subjected to frivolous lawsuits particularly when they are not well-versed on the nuances of the ADA and remedies violations to provide access to all.

HB 494 – Franchisor Law: This bill specifies a franchisor is not the employer of a franchisee or employee of a franchisee for purposes of the Minimum Fair Wage Standards Law, the Bimonthly Pay Law, the Workers’ Compensation Law, the Unemployment Compensation Law, and the Income Tax Law and to require the Director of Administrative Services to establish the women-owned business enterprise program. This preserves the franchisee as the business owner, maintaining decades long policy.

SB 220 – Cybersecurity: This bill creates a safe harbor for businesses meeting certain minimum cybersecurity protocols, with deference to the size of businesses, to protect the information of their customers if they are sued for stolen information. Businesses must regularly update their protocols to maintain this protection, but is not a mandate, and instead encourages businesses to implement cybersecurity protections for their businesses.