



Priority Legislation needed for the NJ State Veterans Chamber of Commerce 2026-2027

1. AN ACT concerning set-asides for veteran-owned businesses, amending N.J.S.A. 40A:11-45, and supplementing Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes. – **adding liquidated damages for contractors that don't set-aside at least 3% of state contractors to DVOBs (NF)**
2. **Publish all spends in every state agency with procurement power** – A bill that mandates that every state agency with procurement power, publishes all spends of that agency with small diverse businesses vs. total spends both as a total dollar amount and as a percentage. This data should be listed on their website and should be updated quarterly. It should track spends of all the certifications listed on the state's NJ SAVI system or subsequent diversity certification system. (NF)
3. **NJEDA Diverse Business Lending fund** – Create a fund run out of NJEDA, for \$20 Million, that allows small diverse businesses, including veteran owned businesses & Disabled veteran owned businesses to use a state contract as collateral and draw up to 100% of the award amount in funding to be paid back via low-interest or no-interest loan. This would be eligible for county and municipal contracts as well. (Money to be paid back)
4. **Tax Incentives for NJ Businesses to use VOBs & DVOBs** – Whatever funds are spent with NJ based DVOBs & VOBs, exempt large private companies from paying taxes on that amount that is spent.
5. **Prompt Payment Program** – a law that states that all veteran businesses will be paid from each state agency that they have a contract, within 15 days of the completion of work on that contract, or portion of that contract that is established at the awarding of the contract. (NF)
6. **Funding to the NJ State Veterans Chamber of Commerce** – create a line item in the budget to provide funding to the veterans chamber to conduct outreach and programming for the veteran business community, as we do not charge veterans for our services.
7. **Require every procurement officer to undergo annual diversity procurement training** – Put together training that is run out of the office of diversity & inclusion, conducted by the Chief Diversity Office and members of the Attorney General's office and members of the NJDBAC, that instructs procurement officers on the need for primes to conduct a true good faith effort, how to outreach to the diverse business communities, and the laws associated with diverse procurement in the state. (NF)
8. **No registration fees for newly formed veteran businesses.** – waive the start-up costs and registration fees for newly created veteran businesses if they are certified under one of the diversity categories in the state.
9. **Waive EZPass tolls for one to two vehicles owned by a disabled veteran businesses** – Create a law that will waive the EZPass tolls of up to two vehicles owned by small disabled veteran businesses in the state. **(S2755)**
10. **Create a 10% Price Preference Program for disabled veteran businesses in the state.** – Allow small diverse businesses a price preference when bidding public jobs. Previous bills



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were S1866/A4042 (which focused on disabled veteran owned businesses). Thirteen other states have price preference laws, so there is a precedent for this law.

11. **Any state dollars that go to counties and municipalities be tied to a veteran business goal** – Much like the way NJEPA establishes SED goals to state/federally funded projects, any state money that is allocated to counties and municipalities will be tied to a small diverse business goal. (NF)
12. **For all Infrastructure Bank (I Bank) funded projects, veteran businesses should be included in the diversity goals of 10%** (Currently only M/W). Waivers need to be issued for any prime vendor that is unable to meet their required diversity goals (NF)
13. **Provide funding for training in capacity building and mentorship between prime vendors and veteran businesses** – Have the state create a training fund to help build capacity for small diverse businesses in the state.
14. **Create a state certification for Military Spouse Owned Businesses** – The creation of the MILSPOUSE state certification will continue to help diverse owned businesses including those owned by military spouses. (NF)
15. **Create a First look Program** – Procurement personnel would be required to first look at small diverse businesses when purchasing through delegated purchase authority or under the threshold purchases in the state. (NF)
16. **Create OGS/Ombudsmen in State Government**– The creation of Ombudsmen will allow veteran businesses to speak directly to a person within the state agency that can help them with problems such as getting paid, contract resolution, and other business-related aspects.
17. **Increase DVOB Set-aside law from 3% to 6% of all State Contracts** – This mirrors the Federal Government spend law. **(In Line with NYS) (NF)**

For more information, please reach out to us at jeff@njveteranschamber.com

For your consideration,

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