



Tiffany Latino-Gerlock
Director of Government Relations
& Communications

2019 Legislative Session Recap

The 2019 Legislative Session wrapped up in Albany this past June with a flurry of activity. I wanted to take a moment to provide you with an overview report of some of the new measures the New York State Legislature passed this year that will affect businesses in our region and statewide.

Permanent Property Tax Cap – a tax cap that places a limit on the growth of school property taxes at two percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. MACNY has long supported and advocated for a permanent property tax cap. The permanent tax cap was part of the state budget.

Expansion of the MWBE Program – legislation that reauthorizes the Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program and extends the provisions of law relating to the participation of MWBEs in state contracts for the program to continue. The legislation increases the “Personal Net Worth” cap from \$3.5 million to \$15 million. The Governor signed the bill into law.

Pay Equity in the Workplace – a package of bills that expands the definition of “equal pay for equal work” to prohibit unequal pay based on a protected class for all substantially similar work. The measure also includes a salary history ban prohibiting employers from asking applicants about their salary history when determining wages. These bills have been signed into law.

Women on Corporate Boards Study – legislation that requires the department of state, in collaboration with the department of taxation and finance, to conduct a study on the number of female directors who serve on each board of directors of domestic and foreign corporations authorized to do business in New York state. The bill will be sent to the Governor’s office for his final review.

Small Business Tax Credit – legislation to establish a small business tax credit for a company that employs a disabled person for the duration of six months and who works a minimum of 35 hours per week. The amount of credit per hired person shall range between \$5,000 to \$25,000. The bill will be delivered to the Governor for his review.

Workforce Development Funding - \$750,000 was secured in the 2019-20 State Budget for the Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program (MIAP) to continue. MACNY, and many of our member companies and Alliance partners, worked hard from the start of budget negotiations to ensure that this funding was included in the final budget agreement.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) – legislation that enacts the CLCPA requiring reductions in statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 1990 levels by 2030 and to 15% of 1990 levels by 2050. It also creates the Climate Action Council to be comprised of various stakeholders, including Energy-Intensive Trade Exposed Industries (EITEs), to help develop a scoping plan. From the beginning of the legislative session, MACNY and many of our members strongly advocated for changes to be made to the original legislative proposal to help protect manufacturers and ensure that representatives of EITEs have a seat at the table. The final piece of legislation that passed, and subsequently signed into law, will include a just transition working group, where representatives from distinct energy-intensive industries will help advise the council on workforce development and training issues and energy-efficient measures.

State legislators are now back in their home districts until returning to Albany for next year’s session in January. Meanwhile, we will continue to advocate for issues of importance to our members. First, we will continue to promote a bill that calls for a zero percent tax rate for all manufacturers, a measure we believe could significantly help pass-through entities cut costs and re-invest in their businesses and communities. The legislation this year unanimously passed the Senate Budget and Revenue Committee, a positive step in the right direction.

We will also continue to focus our efforts on increasing funding for the Manufacturers Intermediary Apprenticeship Program to help grow a larger network of registered apprenticeships at companies throughout the entire state of New York.

If you have any questions about these state measures, please call me anytime at 315- 474-4201 ext. 13.