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At Issue

It's Our Job to Keep Your Business in the Know

What you don't know can hurt you. Take New Jersey's new "pay-to-play" reporting rules, for instance. They require any business or organization with government contracts to report the campaign contributions they make to candidates for public office. Simple, right?

Well, it's not just the contributions you make as the business owner that have to be reported. It's also the contributions made by your company's principals, partners, officers, and directors, as well as their spouses. It doesn't matter if your contract was competitively bid or negotiated. All private-sector entities, even nonprofit organizations, have to comply. Even if you made no campaign contributions during the period in question, you still have to file a report. By the way, the first reports under the new law are due on September 28 — in less than a month.

Every year, the State of New Jersey imposes dozens of new rules, regulations and laws that impact business. It's not easy keeping track of everything, especially when business owners are busy delivering products and services while managing their workforces.

In today's challenging business environment, NJBIA understands that employers do not have a lot of time to follow what's going on in the state. That's why NJBIA offers employers easy and convenient ways to stay informed about the laws, regulations and issues that impact their operations.

The easiest way is through our *Issue Networks*. These periodic e-mails bring news and information on nearly a dozen business topics right to your e-mail inbox. The networks cover topics like health insurance, environmental regulation, energy and manufacturing. They provide information about new environmental rules taking effect or bills that could impact the cost of your health insurance or new economic development programs being launched. And they're right there when you are ready to read them.

Along the same lines, members can sign up to receive our weekly *Capitol Memo*, a concise report on the latest action in Trenton. It's mailed and e-mailed every Friday, and it contains news on the legislative action on the bills that will impact business as well as the actions by various State agencies and the Governor's office.

NJBIA members should also take advantage of the many resources we provide on how to comply with new laws and regulations. NJBIA offers, at no charge to members, its *Fast Facts* publications, which explain how to comply with new government rules such as the civil union law that took effect earlier this year. For more in-depth information, NJBIA regularly brings together the State's top experts for seminars on topics like complying with State and federal family leave laws. NJBIA members get special discounts on the seminars.

Of course, NJBIA also encourages businesses to speak up on the issues that affect them before they become law, and we do our best to make it as easy as possible.

One of our most effective tools is the *NJBIA Membership Alert*. When the Legislature schedules a vote on a bill that impacts your business, NJBIA sends you an e-mail describing the bill and urging you to contact your legislators. Everything is already set up. All you have to do is enter your contact information and make a few mouse clicks. A message is already included in the e-mail, and the software automatically directs it to the appropriate lawmakers.

NJBIA members have effectively used this program to send thousands of messages to legislators. Just this year alone, NJBIA members sent more than 15,000 messages to legislators telling them to oppose a paid-family-leave mandate. It's not easy staying on top of what businesses need to know, and in this age of increased competition, businesses have less time to do it. That's why we make information about all of these programs and services available at www.njbja.org/resources. Because what you don't know, can hurt you. 