

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER
LEGISLATOR - 4th DISTRICT



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February 6, 2006

DISTRICT OFFICE
8860 Main Street - Suite 201A
Williamsville, New York 14221
(716) 631-8695 Fax: 634-4321
Email: ranzenhofer@erie.gov

RE: New Worker Training Program Law

Dear :

As you well know, it is a priority of mine to keep you updated on labor issues that affect you and your business.

On January 25, 2006, a new version of the Local Law regarding Apprenticeship Worker Training Programs was clocked into the Legislature. On February 2nd this Local Law passed by an 11-4 vote that put into effect "*The Erie County Workforce Development and Diversification Apprenticeship Training Program.*" This law calls for required uniform training programs for any contractor or sub-contractor doing business with Erie County.

As I have stated in the past, this local law makes changes that will be hurtful to your business and unfair to many contractors throughout Western New York. Some the requirements of this Local Law are as follows:

- Workforce development and diversification rules ensuring that the workforce includes at least 30% minority and female participation combined in project personnel including trades people, trainees, journeymen, apprentices and supervisory staff
- A minimum of 10% of the workforce employed by any and all contractors or subcontractors be done by a person or persons participating in an apprenticeship program
- Any contractor prior to entering into a construction contract is required to have in place at the time of bid a NYS Department of Labor apprenticeship training program
- Any construction worker on a county project must file with the Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Public Works, a written certification of completion of a NYS Department of Labor approved apprenticeship training program

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Additionally, all companies are required to provide:

- A monthly workforce census and such other employment and/or payroll records necessary to verify achievement of the workforce diversity goals and demonstrate compliance with the minimum standards.
- Access and cooperation to the project compliance officer to review records on-site and/or at worksite premises to validate workforce participation.
- With your bid submission, a statement committing to providing apprenticeship training opportunities to workers, as well as details of a workforce diversification recruiting program directed at attracting candidates to fill positions to meet such requirements.

Please remain assured that I do not support Local Laws that do not treat all companies fairly and equally in regards to bidding on Erie County contracts. Policy should be created that best serves both the taxpayers and our business community. I will urge County Executive Giambra to veto this Local Law and my legislative colleagues to sustain a veto.

If you would like a copy of this newly enacted Local Law to review, please feel free to contact me at my District Office, 631-8695, by fax at 634-4321 or e-mail me at ranzenhofer@erie.gov. Any feedback you have would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL H. RANZENHOFER
Erie County Legislator - 4th District

MHR/kmd