



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF MINORITY  
AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES  
ASSEMBLY TASK FORCE ON WOMEN'S ISSUES**

**SUBJECT:** The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program

**PURPOSE:** To examine the MWBE program and the results from the most recent MWBE disparity study commissioned by the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development.

Thursday  
January 23rd, 2025  
9:00 am  
Hearing Room B  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

**ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY**

Article 15-A of the Executive Law, which establishes New York State's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) program to promote employment and business opportunities for minorities and women on state contracts, is set to expire on July 1, 2025. This statute provides the framework for the MWBE certification and procurement program and establishes targeted goals for the sourcing of services and commodities by certified MWBE businesses. Empire State Development's Division of Minority and Women's Business Development is responsible for establishing a statewide certification program, encouraging and assisting state agencies to increase MWBE participation, and commissioning a statewide disparity study per statute to evaluate the participation of MWBEs on state contracts and determine whether MWBEs have had equal access to contracting opportunities with the State. In addition, the State administers several programs through its various agencies to provide MWBEs with technical, legal, and financial assistance.

The Committees, Subcommittee, and Task Force are interested in receiving feedback from various stakeholders regarding the results of the 2024 MWBE Disparity Study as well as recommendations concerning the program overall. Testimony should include evaluations of the current structure, implementation, and utilization of the program, including the certification and re-certification processes for MWBEs, and explore whether improvements could be made to further enhance opportunities for underrepresented businesses in New York State.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees, Subcommittee, and Task Force will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees, Subcommittee, and Task Force would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**John T. McDonald III**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Governmental**  
**Operations**

**Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority**  
**and Women-Owned Business Enterprises**

**Marianne Buttenschon**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Committee on Small Business**

**Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas**  
**Member of Assembly**  
**Chair**  
**Task Force on Women's Issues**

**PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM**

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email, or fax it to:

Olivia Alderman  
Analyst  
Assembly Committee on  
Governmental Operations  
Room 513 – Capitol  
Albany, New York 12248  
Email: aldermano@nyassembly.gov  
Phone: (518) 455-4355  
Fax: (518) 455-7250

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Program to be conducted by the Assembly Standing Committees on Governmental Operations and Small Business, Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise, and Task Force on Women’s Issues on January 23, 2025.
  
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 of minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
  
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

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- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
  
- I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
  
- I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
  
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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FAX TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_