



The Masonry Update

what's happening in the masonry industry in New Jersey

NEWS FLASH: FEBRUARY 4, 2021

The New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020 (A4)

On January 7, 2021, Governor Murphy signed historic legislation; the "[New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020](#)." The Act is expected to propel the state's economic recovery and growth for much of the next decade by way of new initiatives, cutting-edge programs, and tax incentives packages.

The new legislation includes programs to promote growth in the state's urban centers, including the Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive; the Historic Property Tax Credit to incentivize the restoration of historic buildings and properties; and the Community Anchored Development Program which will incentivize the construction of new developments by partnering with universities, hospitals, arts, and cultural organizations and give the state an equity stake in the development.

Another of the many programs, the New Jersey Aspire Program, is a gap financing program to support commercial, industrial, mixed-use, and residential real estate development projects, with an emphasis on higher need communities.

There are many other incentive programs covering a wide set of areas. There will be caps on the incentives awarded each year, as well as over the life of the programs, and greater oversight to ensure responsible investment and tangible community benefits. Additionally, rules will require that not less than prevailing wage be paid to workers employed in connection with certain incentive programs.

This Bill authorizes \$14 billion of tax credits over seven years.

["100 New Jersey Leaders Come Out in Support of Economic Recovery and Tax Incentives Reform Legislation"](#)

COVID-19

OSHA Issues "Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace"

In efforts to beef up rules, on January 21, 2021 President Biden directed OSHA to release new guidance and implement an Emergency Temporary Standard to employers on protecting workers from COVID-19. On January 29, OSHA issued updated guidance to help employers and workers implement a prevention program and better identify risks which could lead to exposure and contracting the virus.

The new guidance is not a standard or regulation, is only advisory and does not impose any new legal obligations on employers but it does outline existing mandatory safety and health standards.

[OSHA's Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)
[President Biden's Executive Order on Protecting Worker Health and Safety](#)

EEOC and CDC Covid-19 Updates

On December 26, 2020, the EEOC updated Technical Assistance Questions and Answers "[What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws](#)" which includes:

- Confidentiality of Medical Information,
- Hiring,
- Reasonable Accommodation,

- Layoffs,
- Return to Work,
- Caregivers/Family Responsibilities,
- Vaccinations

More information from the EEOC: [*Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace and the Americans with Disabilities Act*](#)

Are you thinking of adopting a vaccine policy? [*5 questions to ask before adopting a vaccine policy; by ConstructionDive*](#)

The CDC [*Construction COVID-19 Checklists for Employers and Employees*](#) , updated January 26, 2021.

New Jersey gets close to 1,200 COVID Workplace Safety Violation Complaints

Governor Murphy's Executive Order 192, effective November 5, 2020, outlined health and safety standards to protect New Jersey's workforce, across all industries, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within the first four weeks of Governor Murphy announcing the EO almost 1,200 complaints were filed with the NJ DOL against employers for their alleged failure to adhere to standards and rules to maintain a safe workplace.

Guidance from public health authorities changes as the pandemic evolves so be sure to follow the most up to date information in order to maintain workplace safety. Learn more about your obligations as an employer and ensure you know the rules by reviewing [*Executive Order 192*](#).

[*All COVID-19 Resource Links can be found on our website.*](#)

**Dedicated to promoting Masonry Design and Union Construction
throughout the State of New Jersey**

Visit our website www.mcofnj.org for more information.

