

Governor Murphy Announces Pardons and Commutations for 36 Individuals

State of NJ Office of Governor
December 16, 2024

The New Jersey Unclaimed Property Administration is calling on residents to check the state's unclaimed funds database, which holds millions of dollars in dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks, and forgotten utility deposits. The initiative aims to reconnect residents with their rightful assets.

The NJUPA, which oversees unclaimed property in the state, offers an easy-to-use online search tool on its official website. By entering their name or the names of family members, residents can quickly determine if they are entitled to unclaimed funds.

Officials emphasize that legitimate unclaimed property programs do not charge fees for searches or claims. Residents are advised to use official government websites or contact NJUPA directly to avoid scams.

"This is an opportunity for New Jersey residents to recover money they may have forgotten about," said the NJUPA in a statement. "A few minutes spent searching could lead to a meaningful financial benefit."

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Small Businesses Are Spending More Time, Money on Regulatory Compliance

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
December 16, 2024

Washington, D.C. — About half of small business owners and decision makers say they are spending too much time and money navigating regulatory requirements and that it's impacting their growth, according to new findings in the Q4 MetLife and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Index. Additionally, 51% say that licensing, certification, and permit requirements make it harder to grow their business. Almost as many (47%) say that their business spends too much time fulfilling regulatory compliance requirements.

The survey also found that 69% of small businesses say they spend more per employee to comply with regulations than larger competitors. About two in five (44%) small businesses say they outsource compliance tasks, further demonstrating the financial burden these tasks can put on a small business owner.

"Too many regulations cause big headaches for small businesses, even if they feel confident in their ability to comply or have the means to outsource compliance tasks," said Tom Sullivan, Vice President of Small Business Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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State moves to revamp charter school laws after damning NJ.com reports

Matthew Stanmyre | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
Dec. 17, 2024

Moments after delivering opening remarks highlighting the successes in New Jersey's charter school sector, Harry Lee steeled himself at a lectern inside the Statehouse Annex in Trenton on Monday.

The weight of the entire state charter system, dogged this year by allegations of financial and ethical impropriety in some of its schools, seemed to hang in the expansive hearing room filled with education officials and experts from across New Jersey.

Then came the rapid fire questions from lawmakers.

They wanted to know how charter board members are selected. Who does the vetting? How are school budgets decided? Who agrees on doling out salaries that some have described as "outrageous"? And why are some charter schools at enrollment capacity and others not?

It was all part of a hotly debated, nearly four-hour legislative hearing regarding the state's public charter school sector, in response to a series of NJ Advance Media investigations that uncovered widespread allegations of financial and ethical misconduct, as well as possible violations of state law, in several schools.

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