

**Fairfax County Small Business Commission**  
**Small Business: Legislative and Policy News**  
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May 2017 Newsletter

**Senate Introduces Main Street Fairness Act**

On March 29, 2017, U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced the Main Street Fairness Act. This act intends to reduce tax rates on the nation's small businesses. The legislation was previously introduced by Representative Vern Buchanan, (R-FL) in the U.S. House of Representatives and passed in April of 2017.

Mr. Buchanan applauded his Senate colleagues for introducing his bill in the Senate. "I'm thrilled that two prominent senators introduced my Main Street Fairness Act in the Senate. This indicates broad support for ensuring that no small business pays a higher tax rate than large corporations," he reacted proudly.

The existing corporate tax rate is 35%. However, many small businesses pay S Corporate Rate taxes at a considerably higher rate than larger businesses. Senator Nelson emphasized in a press release that "Small businesses are a cornerstone of our local economies and this bill is just one way we can help them succeed" on March 28, 2017 according to The Hill.

Senator Collins asserted that small businesses employed more than half the nation's workers and generated many new jobs. She also stressed that the higher tax burdens faced by small businesses make competition more difficult.

Many small business owners applauded the legislation. Gene Marks, a small business owner, and an occasional columnist for the Washington Post indicated that the savings from tax cuts would generate new jobs and products for consumers on March 29 in the Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/on-small-business/wp/2017/03/29/tax-reform-may-be-coming-early-for-small-businessesutm+term=4be949bb090>

**House Passes Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act**

On May 2, 2017, the United States House of Representatives passed the Small Business Capital Enhancement Formation Act (SBCEFA) by a vote of 406-0. The bill was introduced by Representative Bruce Poliquin (R-ME).

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, HR 1312 directs the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) to evaluate each recommendation brought forward during the SEC's annual Government Forum on Capital Formation. Through this forum, *inter alia*, the SEC gathers many small businesses and entrepreneurs inviting them to present their recommendations on capital formation which indirectly assists small businesses.

In a statement on the House floor, Representative Poliquin asserted that "Access to capital is absolutely critical when it comes to growing our economy and providing more opportunities to the next generation. When small business thrives, our economy thrives."

Congressman Juan Vargas, (D-CA) praised the bill, stating "This bipartisan bill will ensure that hard-working small business owners have access to the capital and other resources they need to succeed."

Neil L. Bradley, the Chief Policy Officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce added that "Requiring the SEC to take notice and be responsible to the recommendations each year would better help the agency fulfil its mandate to facilitate capital formation."

<https://riponadvance.com/stories/financial-services/house-unanimously-passes-poliquin-bill-help-small-businesses-access-capital-markets/>

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