

**§90-R. Powers and duties of the special advocate**

**1. General advocacy.** The special advocate may advocate generally on behalf of small business interests by commenting on rules proposed under chapter 375, testifying on legislation affecting the interests of small businesses, consulting with agencies having enforcement authority over business matters and promoting the services provided by the special advocate.

[PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**2. Advocate on behalf of an aggrieved small business.** Upon receipt of a complaint requesting assistance under section 90-Q, the special advocate may:

A. Consult with the small business that filed the complaint and with the staff in the agency that initiated the agency enforcement action to determine the facts of the case; [PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. After reviewing the complaint and discussing the complaint with the small business and the agency that initiated the agency enforcement action, determine whether, in the opinion of the special advocate, the complaint arises from an agency enforcement action that is likely to result in a significant economic hardship to the small business; [PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. If the special advocate determines that an agency enforcement action is likely to result in a significant economic hardship to the small business, seek to resolve the complaint through consultation with the agency that initiated the agency enforcement action and the small business and participation in related regulatory proceedings in a manner allowed by applicable laws; and [PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. If the special advocate determines that an agency enforcement action applies statutes or rules in a manner that is likely to result in a significant economic hardship to the small business, when an alternative means of effective enforcement is possible, recommend to the Secretary of State that the secretary issue a regulatory impact notice to the Governor. [PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

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**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2011, c. 304, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).

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