



TRENTON WATCH

January 8, 2016

Tracking Legislation and Other Items Important to the Business Community:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Deadline Extension for Developers - [S3182](#) (Ruiz/D-29; Pou/D-35): Senate passed 38-0. Extends the deadline from April 26, 2017 to April 26, 2018 for a residential developer to submit documentation for its credit amount under the Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit Program for approval by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. The bill also extends the deadline for a developer to certify the credit amount for any tax period from July 28, 2017 to July 28, 2018. This legislation will give developers flexibility when filing documentation to receive incentives for vital economic development projects. **Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)**



Innovation Zone Program - [S-726/S-1257](#) (Turner/D-15; Cruz-Perez/D-5; Beach/D-6; Kean/R-21; Lampitt/D-6; Egan/D-17; Quijano/D-20; Sumter/D-35; Danielsen/D-17): Senate passed 36-0; sent to Governor. Establishes an innovation zone program to stimulate technology industry clusters around New Jersey's public universities or research hospitals. This bill is designed to keep New Jersey on the cutting edge of research and development. The high-tech business sector is an important segment of New Jersey's economy, and it generates significant revenue and high-quality jobs. **Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)**

ENVIRONMENT



Removes Public Entities from Environmental Liability - [S-444/S-2419](#) (Ruiz/D-29; Smith/D-17; Bateman/R-16): Senate passed 26-11. Prohibits any person from bringing an action for contribution against a local public entity for cleanup and removal costs or any other damages associated with a discharge of a hazardous substance. There are several municipalities and their local sewer and water authorities that have contributed significantly to the contamination of the Passaic River by discharging sewage and wastewater into the river for decades. This legislation sets a bad precedent by allowing these entities to escape liability for polluting and for their shared responsibility to pay for cleanup costs. **Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)**



Regulates E-Waste - [A-4763](#) (McKeon/D-27; Spencer/D-29; Pinkin/D-18; Smith/D-17; Bateman/R-16; Greenstein/D-14; Codey/D-27): Senate passed 33-7; sent to Governor. Requires manufacturers of electronics to provide for the collection, transportation, and

recycling of its market share in weight of all covered electronics collected in a program year. The State Chamber opposes this legislation because it shifts financial responsibility from recyclers to current New Jersey manufacturers and grants the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection with unlimited authority to establish expensive recycling mandates on any electronic product.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

HOMELAND SECURITY

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee



Regulating Drones - S-3183 (Sarlo/D-36; O'Toole/R-40): Senate committee passed. This bill is part of a package that seeks to regulate the public use of drones. The State Chamber believes that certain regulatory requirements are necessary to restrict where these unmanned aircrafts can operate, safeguarding sensitive infrastructure and installations, and our aviation hubs. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee S-3183 Vote: Sarlo, Paul A. (C) - Yes; Stack, Brian P. (VC) - Yes; Beck, Jennifer - Not Voting; Bucco, Anthony R. - Yes; Cruz-Perez, Nilsa - Yes; Cunningham, Sandra B. - Yes; O'Toole, Kevin J. - Yes; Oroho, Steven V. - Yes; Pou, Nellie - Yes; Ruiz, M. Teresa - Yes; Thompson, Samuel D. - No; Van Drew, Jeff - Yes

LABOR



"New Jersey Secure Choices Act" - A-4275 (Prieto/D-32; Eustace/D-38; Lagana/D-38; Greenwald/D-6; Quijano/D-20; Danielsen/D-17; Mukherji/D-33; Sweeney/D-3; Turner/D-15; Sarlo/D-36): Senate passed 30-6; sent to Governor. Creates a retirement savings program for private sector workers in the form of an automatic enrollment, and payroll-deduction to fund an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This legislation requires businesses who do not offer retirement savings accounts with less than 25 employees to allow enrollment in a state-facilitated savings plan. While the State Chamber recognizes the importance of individuals establishing a retirement fund, we have concerns that the overall bill is a mandate on the employer community. The State Chamber has been advocating for amendments to make the legislation voluntary and more palatable to our small business members. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

LEGISLATURE

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee & Assembly Judiciary Committee



Legislative Redistricting - SCR-188 (Scutari/D-22)/ACR-4 (Greenwald/D-6; McKeon/D-27; Singleton/D-7): Senate and Assembly Public Hearing. Proposes a constitutional amendment to change the membership of the legislative Apportionment Commission; imposes certain requirements on the commission for process and legislative district composition. The State Chamber believes this proposal will adversely impact the state's electoral process. Just as we fought in 2013 to avoid the violation of our Constitution by

adding mandated minimum wage increases, this redistricting proposal should not be placed in the state's founding charter. The process of redistricting is a political process that is best served by an independent and objective commission, and should not be enshrined in the Constitution. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

PENSION

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee & Assembly Judiciary Committee



Constitutionally Mandated Pension Payments - SCR-184 (Sweeney/D-3; Turner/D-15; Greenstein/D-14)/[ACR-3](#) (Prieto/D-32; Jimenez/D-32): **Senate and Assembly Public Hearings.** Proposes a constitutional amendment to require the state to fund the pensions of public employees on a timely basis. The State Chamber believes this proposal will severely impact the state's fiscal stability, which will ultimately have a negative effect on our effort to create jobs and grow our economy. The debate about funding the pension obligation belongs in the Legislature, not the Constitution. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

TAXATION

Assembly Appropriations Committee



Hotel Tax - A-4772 (Burzichelli/D-3): Assembly committee passed. Allows a county to impose a 1% hotel tax. This tax would be in addition to the current state hotel occupancy fee and sales tax, and any municipal hotel taxes. This legislation increases costs for tourists and travelers, which can have a negative impact on the hospitality and tourism industries in the state.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Appropriations Committee A-4772 Vote: Burzichelli, John J. (C) - Yes; Spencer, L. Grace (VC) - Yes; Casagrande, Caroline - No; Conaway, Herb - Yes; DiMaio, John - No; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Lampitt, Pamela R. - Yes; Phoebus, Gail - No; Schaer, Gary S. - Yes

TRANSPORTATION

Assembly Judiciary Committee



Lockbox for TTF Fund - ACR-1 (Prieto/D-32; Wisniewski/D-19; Singleton/D-7; Lagana/D-38; Spencer/D-29): **Assembly Public Hearing.** The proposed constitutional amendment would dedicate all state revenues from the motor fuels and petroleum products gross receipts tax to the Transportation Trust Fund. If voter approved, all money raised by taxes paid while purchasing fuel would be constitutionally dedicated. New Jersey currently imposes a 10.5 cents per gallon tax on the sale of gasoline and a 13.5 cents per gallon tax on diesel fuel. This measure will safeguard these funds and help alleviate one of the public's major concerns, as indicated in the many polls taken on this subject. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Assembly Appropriations Committee



Creates a New R&D Program - [S-2442](#) (Kean/R-21; Sarlo/D-36)/[A-3891](#) (Bramnick/R-21; Rodriguez-Gregg/R-8; Johnson/D-37; Casagrande/R-11; Schepisi/R-39): Assembly committee passed. Earmarks workforce development funds for a New Jersey Innovation and Research Fellowship Program which will provide grants to support technological research and innovation in New Jersey. This new program will add to New Jersey's economic incentive toolkit to grow innovative startups and businesses that provide highly skilled, technical jobs to New Jersey residents. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Appropriations Committee S-2442/A-3891 Vote: Burzichelli, John J. (C) - Yes; Spencer, L. Grace (VC) - Yes; Casagrande, Caroline - Yes; Conaway, Herb - Yes; DiMaio, John - Yes; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Lampitt, Pamela R. - Abstain; Phoebus, Gail - Yes; Schaer, Gary S. - Yes

Thumbs up and down indicates the chamber's support or opposition to issues. Call the State Chamber Government Relations Department at (609) 989-7888 with questions or comments.