



TRENTON WATCH

OCTOBER 11, 2016

Tracking Legislation and Other Items Important to the Business Community:

TTF FUNDING & TAX REFORM



Transportation Trust Fund - A-10 (Prieto/D-32; Huttie/D-37; McKeon/D-27; Schaer/D-36; Sumter/D-35; Caputo/D-28; Mukherji/D-33; Singleton/D-7; Pintor Marin/D-29; Giblin/D-34; Rible/R-30; Sarlo/D-36; Oroho/R-24): Senate passed 23-14, Assembly passed 45-27, sent to Governor. Authorizes \$2 billion per year in

Transportation Trust Fund spending over eight years, and all revenue from motor fuels taxes constitutionally dedicated to infrastructure work. An additional 23 cents per gallon in motor fuels taxes will be added to the existing 14.5-cent gas tax for a total of 37.5 cents per gallon. A sustained investment of \$2 billion annually would produce an estimated \$4.7 billion in economic activity and create more than 34,000 jobs directly and indirectly. Additionally, this bill creates the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank as a special, non-lapsing revolving line of credit to provide low-cost loans to counties and municipalities. The State Chamber strongly believes that infrastructure is the foundation of our economy and this long-term and sustainable solution will be an enormous boost in making New Jersey more competitive - helping to create and retain jobs. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)



Adjusts Certain State Taxes - A-12 (Prieto/D-32; McKeon/D-27; Schaer/D-36; Sumter/D-35; Caputo/D-28; Huttie/D-37; Giblin/D-34; Rible/R-30; Sarlo/D-36; Oroho/R-24): Senate passed 24-14, Assembly passed 45-27, sent to Governor. Phases out the estate tax over two years, replacing the current \$675,000 threshold with a \$2 million threshold after January 1, 2017 and eliminating the estate tax altogether as of January 1, 2018. The bill also increases the pension and retirement income exclusions, increases the Earned Income Tax Credit, adds exemptions for veterans, and reduces the sales tax. The State Chamber strongly believes these tax reforms are the best solution for tax fairness and give citizens and businesses the incentives to remain in New Jersey and help grow our economy. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

BUDGET



BEIP Tax Credits - A-4083 (Schaer/D-36; Space/R-24)/**S-2477** (Sarlo/D-36; Oroho/R-24): Assembly committee passed. This legislation would allow companies that are using BEIP tax credits when they pay their insurance premiums tax to receive a refund if their tax credits are higher in value than what they owe in the insurance premiums tax. Previously, companies could only receive refunds if they chose to apply the tax credit to their corporate business tax liability. **Contact:** [Lauren Lalicon](#)

Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee A-4083 Vote: Johnson, Gordon M. (C) - Yes; Pintor Marin, Eliana (VC) - Yes; Auth, Robert - Yes; Bucco, Anthony M. - Yes; Chiaravalloti, Nicholas - Yes; Coughlin, Craig J. - Yes; DeCroce, BettyLou - Yes; Eustace, Tim - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Munoz, Nancy F. - Yes; Muoio, Elizabeth Maher - Yes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee



Angel Investor Tax Credit - A-3631 (Quijano/D-20; Schaer/D-36; Huttie/D-37; Zwicker/D-16)/**S-158** (Madden/D-4; Cruz-Perez/D-5): Assembly committee passed. This bill amends the "New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act" to allow a tax credit against the corporation business tax and the gross income tax for an emerging technology business in NJ that invests in a fellow emerging technology business in the State. The definition of a New Jersey emerging technology businesses is broadened to include companies that conduct technology commercialization in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies, and more. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee A-3631 Vote: Johnson, Gordon M. (C) - Yes; Pintor Marin, Eliana (VC) - Yes; Auth, Robert - Yes; Bucco, Anthony M. - Abstain; Chiaravalloti, Nicholas - Yes; Coughlin, Craig J. - Yes; DeCroce, BettyLou - Yes; Eustace, Tim - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Munoz, Nancy F. - Yes; Muoio, Elizabeth Maher - Yes

EDUCATION

Senate Higher Education Committee



Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships - S-354 (Kean/R-21)/**A-1668** (Schaer/D-36; Jasey/D-27; Johnson/D-37; Zwicker/D-16; Giblin/D-34; Downey/D-11; Wimberly/D-35): Senate committee passed. Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships. The Commission will explore how to best foster innovation and collaboration through private investment in higher education, focusing on research and development in the growing technical and bioscience industries. The executive director of the commission will serve as the Higher Education-Business Partnership Ombudsman to work with interested institutions of higher education. A representative from the State Chamber will serve on the Commission. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate Higher Education Committee S-354/A-1668 Vote: Cunningham, Sandra B. (C) - Yes; Pou, Nellie (VC) - Yes; Kean, Thomas H. - Not Voting; Sarlo, Paul A. - Yes; Singer, Robert W. - Yes

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism, and Historic Preservation Committee



Designates Thomas Alva Edison as State Inventor - S-656 (Turner/D-15; Kyrillos/R-13; Diegnan/D-18)/**A-562** (Pinkin/D-18; Diegnan/D-18): Senate committee passed. This bill designates Thomas Alva Edison as State Inventor. Edison, an American inventor and businessman, built a lab in Menlo Park, New Jersey, creating the first incandescent light bulb, the motion picture camera and the phonograph - earning the title of "The Wizard of Menlo Park." In 1911, Edison became one of the founding members of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism, and Historic Preservation Committee S-656 Vote:

Whelan, Jim (C) - Yes; Turner, Shirley K. (VC) - Yes; Diegnan, Patrick J. Jr, - Yes; Oroho, Steven V. - Not Voting; Thompson, Samuel D. - Yes

LABOR



Unemployment Compensation and Labor Disputes - [S-2160](#) (Vitale/D-19; Sweeney/D-3; Quijano/D-20; DeAngelo/D-14; Giblin/D-34; Benson/D-14; Zwicker/D-16; Daniels/D-17; Houghtaling/D-11; Sumter/D-35): Assembly passed 49-24, sent to Governor. Concerns unemployment compensation and labor disputes. The bill was inspired by the Verizon strike, which was resolved in May. It is modeled after similar legislation in New York and Alaska. The legislation would allow striking workers to collect benefits under several different scenarios. In situations where an employer refuses to comply with a collective bargaining agreement or a contract with the union, workers would be covered immediately. The State Chamber has concerns regarding the impact of this proposal on the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance fund. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism, and Historic Preservation Committee



Gender-Based Pay Equity and Job Equity Evaluation - [S-2101](#) (Turner/D-15; Gill/D-34)/**[A-883](#)** (Muoio/D-15; Lampitt/D-6; Mosquera/D-4): Senate committee passed. The bill will require every bidder on a contract or agreement to submit a report to the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury that measures the extent to which men and women employed by that bidder perform the same or comparable work at different rates of pay as well as the extent to which the company's job titles may be predominately held by members of the same gender. These reports will receive a rating that indicates the extent to which the bidder is free of gender-based pay inequity and inequality within job titles, which would be considered in determining which contract receives the award. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism, and Historic Preservation Committee S-2101A/883
Vote: Whelan, Jim (C) - Yes; Turner, Shirley K. (VC) - Yes; Diegnan, Patrick J. Jr, - Yes; Oroho, Steven V. - Not Voting; Thompson, Samuel D. - No

TRANSPORTATION



TTF Compensation - [A-4114](#) (Muoio/D-15; Schaer/D-36; Coughlin/D-19; Benson/D-14; Holley/D-20; Wisniewski/D-19; Gusciora/D-15): Assembly passed 52-13-8. Requires the Department of Transportation to compensate local government entities for any contractual delay damages resulting from shutdown of transportation projects funded by the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). The State Chamber has been adamant about securing funding for the TTF, and believes that the State has an obligation to pay back the municipalities and counties for following through on their contracts. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

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.