



IT ALL STARTED WITH A BRIGHT IDEA

NEW JERSEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TRENTON WATCH

OCTOBER 24, 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): Governor signed into law. 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): Governor signed into law. Phases out the estate tax over two years, replacing the current \$675,000 threshold with a \$2 million threshold after Jan. 1, 2017 and eliminating the estate tax altogether as of Jan. 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](#)

Transportation Trust Fund Authority Executive Orders - Executive Order No. 210, signed on June 30, 2016, and Executive Order No. 213, signed on Aug. 17, 2016 were rescinded. Executive Order No. 210 declared a State of Emergency and order the Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit to plan an immediate and orderly shutdown of all nonessential work on the State's transportation infrastructure funded by the TTFA. Executive Order No. 213 declared a continuing State of Emergency and ordered that certain essential transportation projects were to be funded through the general State fund.

BUDGET

Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee



Tax Expenditure Disclosure - [A-301](#) (Singleton/D-7; Schaer/D-36; Benson/D-14; Eustace/D-38; Mosquera/D-4; Houghtaling/D-11)/[S-2744](#) (Greenstein/D-14): Assembly committee passed. This bill enhances the current review and evaluation process that the Executive branch of the State government is required to perform in regards to certain State development subsidies, including tax expenditures. The Executive branch is authorized to examine if tax incentives have met expectations. Under this bill, these State development subsidies would lapse after 10 years. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#) and [Lauren Lalicon](#)

Assembly Budget Committee A-301 Vote: Schaer, Gary S. (C) - Yes; Burzichelli, John J. (VC) - Yes; Bucco, Anthony M. - No; DiMaio, John - Not Voting; Johnson, Gordon M. - Yes; McKeon, John F. - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Muoio, Elizabeth Maher - Yes; O'Scanlon, Declan J., Jr. - No; Pintor Marin, Eliana - Yes; Rodriguez-Gregg, Maria - No; Singleton, Troy - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. - Yes

Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committee



Grant Data Website - [A-747](#) (Moriarity/D-4; Huttie/D-37; McKnight/D-31): Assembly passed 72-0. Assembly committee passed. Requires State Treasurer to organize and publish certain state contract and grant information on a website. The website is intended to provide easy access and a comprehensive "one stop" source for information on the use of State funds. This bill would improve transparency and accountability and simplify the process to access information. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Budget Committee A-301 Vote: Schaer, Gary S. (C) - Yes; Burzichelli, John J. (VC) - Yes; Bucco, Anthony M. - Yes; DiMaio, John - Not Voting; Johnson, Gordon M. - Yes; McKeon, John F. - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Muoio, Elizabeth Maher - Yes; O'Scanlon, Declan J., Jr. - Yes; Pintor Marin, Eliana - Yes; Rodriguez-Gregg, Maria - Yes; Singleton, Troy - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. - Yes

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Establishes Joint Permit Application Process for Aquaculture Projects - [A-793](#) (Andrzejczak/D-1; Land/D-1; Taliaferro/D-3; Van Drew/D-1; Connors/R-9): Senate passed 38-0, sent to the Governor. Requires the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Protection to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish a joint permit application process for aquaculture projects that require both state and federal permits, licenses and approvals. This bill would make the approval process more efficient and incentivize developers to launch aquaculture projects. **Contact:** [Lauren Lalicon](#)



Aquaculture Industry - [AJR-24](#) (Andrzejczak/D-1; Houghtaling/D-11; Van Drew/D-1; Connors/R-9): Senate passed 38-0, sent to the Governor. Declares aquaculture an important state economic driver and urges the state to include the aquaculture industry in its economic development plans. New Jersey currently has over 160 licensed aquatic farmers and, according to the Aquaculture Innovation Center at Rutgers, the total economic impact of aquaculture to New Jersey is as high as \$36 million. **Contact:** [Lauren Lalicon](#)

ENVIRONMENT

Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee



Drinking Water Standards - [A-4095](#) (Eustace/D-38; Singleton/D-7; Holley/D-20; Conaway/D-7; Muoio/D-15; Huttie/D-37; Chiaravallotti/D-31)/[S-2468](#) (Lesniak/D-20): Assembly committee passed. Directs the DEP to adopt standards for certain drinking water contaminants as recommended by the Drink Water Quality Institute. The State Chamber raised concerns at the hearing regarding the policy, procedure and process aspects of the proposal, circumventing the current

Administrative Procedures Act (APA) in general agency rulemaking. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee A-4095 Vote: Eustace, Tim (C) - Yes; McKeon, John F. - Yes; Benson, Daniel R. - Yes; Kennedy, James J. - Yes; Rumana, Scott T. - No; Wolfe, David W. - Yes

Senate Environment and Energy Committee



Food Waste Recycling - S-771 (Smith/D-17; Bateman/R-16)/A-2417 (Eustace/D-38; Zwicker/D-16; McKeon/D-27): Senate committee passed. Requires that large volume food waste generators make alternative arrangements for the disposal of their food waste. Initially the bill defined a large volume generator as one which generates 104 tons of food waste per year, before dropping that threshold to 52 tons in the third year. The State Chamber recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the New Jersey Food Council in securing several key amendments, including a two-year delayed implementation and price gouging protections. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate Environment and Energy Committee S-771 Vote: Smith, Bob (C) - Yes; Greenstein, Linda R. - Yes; Bateman, Christopher - Yes; Codey, Richard J. - Not Voting; Thompson, Samuel D. - Yes

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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 passed 38-0. This bill designates Thomas Alva Edison as State Inventor. Edison, an American inventor and businessman, built a lab in Menlo Park, N.J, 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](#)

LABOR

Assembly Labor Committee



Wage Transparency Act - A-1444 (Lampitt/D-6; Mosquera/D-4; Johnson/D-37): Assembly committee passed. Requires reporting of public contractor employment information. This bill imposes a series of reporting requirements on public contractors - some of which are not even imposed on state agencies themselves - including providing information on the gender, race, job title, occupational category, and rate of compensation for each of their employees whenever there is a change in employment status including when medical leave is taken. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Labor Committee A-1444 Vote: Egan, Joseph V. (C) - Yes; Sumter, Shavonda (VC) - Yes; Coughlin, Craig J. - Yes; Dancer, Ronald S. - No; Gusciora, Reed - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Space, Parker - No; Webber, Jay - No

LEGAL



Prohibits Contracts with State Agencies - A-3064 (Moriarty/D-4; Diegnan/D-18; Benson/D-14; Johnson/D-37)/S-2450 (Diegnan/D-18; Cruz/Perez/D-5): Assembly passed 50-22-1. Prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts with business entities that require any person or public entity to give up any rights or remedy provided by state law. This bill penalizes businesses that use standard form contracts that provide for binding arbitration in lieu of a jury trial. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

TRANSPORTATION



Regulates Transportation Network Companies - [A-3695](#) (Lagana/D-38; Singleton/D-7; Wisniewski/D-19; DeCroke/R-26)/[S-2179](#) (Sarilo/D-36; Kyrillos/R-13): Assembly passed 61-11-

3. Regulates ridesharing companies that use the internet or other digital communications to connect drivers with people who need rides. The State Chamber acknowledges the compromise agreement reached on background checks and recognizes that it will fairly regulate transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft while still allowing them to flourish. Ridesharing companies are innovative new companies that provide safe and affordable transportation options to New Jersey residents, businesses and visitors. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Senate Legislative Oversight Committee and Assembly Judiciary Committee

The joint committee received testimony from invited guests, including Department of Transportation Commissioner Richard Hammer, and other regional rail transportation officials and advocates, on NJ Transit management, operations, funding, and safety issues, including the status of the installation of Positive Train Control (PTC) technology. Commissioner Hammer strongly stated that the Governor's past moratorium on transportation infrastructure projects had no effect on the installation process of PTC, but the other transit agencies that use NJ Transit's system have held up the implementation in that NJ Transit must make sure that the PTC technology that is in line with the transit agencies. Newly appointed NJ Transit Executive Director Steven Santoro was not in attendance.

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.
