

TRENTON WATCH

February 5, 2018

Tracking Legislation and Other Items Important to the Business Community:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment Opportunity - [SCR-25](#)

(Rice/D-28): Senate passed 40-0. Received in the Assembly. Referred to the Assembly Labor Committee. Reconstitutes the Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment Opportunity, which was first established in 2014. The resolution provides the joint committee with authorization to conduct a continuing study of issues concerning economic justice and equal employment opportunity in New Jersey. The committee will report the results of its studies to the Legislature on a routine basis. The State Chamber recently provided recommendations to the Joint Committee on economic development and transportation. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

ENERGY

Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee



RGGI - [A-1212](#) (McKeon/D-27; Gusciora/D-15; Vainieri Huttie/D-37): Clarifies previous law by requiring the state's full participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The State Chamber historically opposed this measure because the RGGI program ultimately contributed to higher energy prices for residents and businesses in New Jersey. Additionally, states that factor in New Jersey's overall air quality (such as Pennsylvania) continue to not participate in the RGGI cap-and-trade program. The State Chamber has requested updated data on the program as well as benchmarking other states that were in the program to gauge effectiveness. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee A-1212 Vote: Pinkin, Nancy J. (C) - Yes; Gusciora, Reed (VC) - Yes; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; McKeon, John F. - Yes; Rooney, Kevin J. - No; Schepisi, Holly - No

LABOR



State Employment and Training Commission - [S-1014](#) (Rice/D-28): Senate passed 40-0. Received in the Assembly. Referred to the Assembly Labor Committee. Changes the composition of the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC) to comply with the recently enacted federal "Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act." As a result, the Governor would be added as a member of the SETC. The bill also would require that the leaders of the Senate and Assembly, rather than the Governor, are responsible for appointing members of their legislative chambers to serve on the SETC. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

TECHNOLOGY

Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

Beginning with the 2018-19 legislative session, Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker will be chairman of the newly created Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee. Among the many goals of this committee is to help create jobs, boost the middle class and increase economic development. To kick off the new session, Chairman Zwicker invited leaders from some of New Jersey's top tech companies and institutions of higher learning to discuss ideas. Among the ideas discussed was the desire to incentivize scientific and technological innovation through tax credits. Other important suggestions included an ad campaign to market New Jersey as a haven for innovation and technology based on its prime location and highly educated population, and to invest more into research institutions. The New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce welcomes this new committee and will work closely with Chairman Zwicker and fellow committee members to make New Jersey a leader in science and technology. **Contact: Michael Egenton**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee

Seeking
Amend-
ments

Prorated Refunds for Service Outages of Longer than 24 Hours - [A-107](#) (DeAngelo/D-14): Assembly committee passed. This bill calls for the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to require telecommunications companies to provide prorated refunds for service outages lasting longer than 24 hours. This requirement also extends to companies that offer Voice Over Internet Protocol and other Internet-based telephone services. The bill also mandates these businesses to offer the refund without requiring the consumer to take any action to receive it. The State Chamber has concerns over the fact that it is not technologically feasible for telecommunications companies to automatically ascertain that a consumer has experienced an outage, or the duration of that outage, without the customer's notification. **Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)**

Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee A-107 Vote: DeAngelo, Wayne P. (C) - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. (VC) - Yes; DePhillips, Christopher P. - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Jones, Patricia Egan - Not Voting; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Thomas, Edward H. - Yes; Wirths, Harold J. - Yes



Cable Television Service Requirements - [A-1451](#) (Benson/D-14; Andrzejczack/D-1; Land/D-1): Assembly committee passed. Requires a Cable Television (CATV) company holding a system-wide franchise issued by the BPU to make CATV service available throughout residential areas of a municipality within a specified number of years after the cable television company first provides service to that municipality. CATV companies must make service available throughout a municipality within two years of the bill's effective date if the company is already providing commercial service to more than 25% of a community's cable subscribers. The State Chamber opposes this bill because it runs counter to industry trends. With more and more households "cord-cutting," CATV providers need to maintain flexibility to make sound business decisions, and this bill restricts that ability.
Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee A-1451 Vote: DeAngelo, Wayne P. (C) - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. (VC) - Yes; DePhillips, Christopher P. - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Jones, Patricia Egan - Not Voting; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Thomas, Edward H. - Yes; Wirths, Harold J. - Yes; DeAngelo, Wayne P. (C) - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. (VC) - Yes; DePhillips, Christopher P. - No; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Jones, Patricia Egan - Not Voting; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Thomas, Edward H. - No; Wirths, Harold J. - Abstain



Receiving Credit or Rebate Due to CATV Service Outage - [A-2023](#) (Coughlin/D-19; Benson/D-14; Wimberly/D-35): Assembly Committee passed. Exempts cable television subscribers from having to notify their cable television company, the Office of Cable Television, or other complaint officer of cable television service outage to receive credit or a rebate. In addition, it is mandated that CATV companies issue a monetary credit, rebate, or other appropriate form of compensation to a cable subscriber within 30 days of the subscriber's outage. The legislation works in connection with A-107 to clarify previous law regarding compensation for service outages. As such, the State Chamber is seeking amendments due to concerns over the technological feasibility of cable providers being able to know whether or not a service outage has occurred without being notified.
Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee A-2023 Vote: DeAngelo, Wayne P. (C) - Yes; Wimberly, Benjie E. (VC) - Yes; DePhillips, Christopher P. - Yes; Houghtaling, Eric - Yes; Jones, Patricia Egan - Not Voting; Lagana, Joseph A. - Yes; Thomas, Edward H. - Yes; Wirths, Harold J. - Yes

TRANSPORTATION

Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee

With the start of the new legislative session and his first term heading the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, Chairman Daniel Benson invited advocacy and trade associations across the state to testify on the future of transportation in New Jersey. Among the most frequently mentioned subjects was the Gateway tunnel project designed to renovate and expand the Northeast Corridor Hudson River rail line. The committee also heard further testimony regarding the need to expand and improve NJ Transit services, as well as repairing our roads and bridges. A strong infrastructure and transportation system is important for the citizens and businesses of New Jersey. The State Chamber looks forward to working with Chairman Benson and the members of the committee to accomplish our transportation goals this legislative session. **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](tel:6099897888) with questions or comments.