

NJ Chamber

TRENTON WATCH

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

STATE BUDGET

Shortly before midnight on July 1, 2018, Gov. Murphy approved the Fiscal Year 2019 budget. The State Chamber has testified multiple times over the last few months in opposition to several provisions within this budget to help prevent or contain negative consequences to our members and the business community. Our team was present the entire weekend talking to legislators and staff, providing the expertise of our Tax Council and communicating the implications of the proposals within the budget. We will be presenting a special edition of Trenton Watch that will detail the final budget legislation and its impact on our members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support

Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant Bond Financing Act

[A-2041](#) (Coughlin/D-19; Holley/D-20; Pintor Marin/D-29)/[S-1840](#) (Vitale/D-19; Gopal/D-11)

Senate passed 29-10; Received in Assembly; 2nd reading in Assembly to concur with Senate amendments; Assembly passed 70-5-0 and sent to Governor. Authorizes creation of economic recovery districts under the Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program. These districts would be designated by municipalities to foster new project development. This legislation would allow municipalities with these districts to provide additional funding through local incentive grants or bonds from the municipality's economic recovery district management corporation to developers for securing private financing for their development projects.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

Support

Tax Credits for Airports

[A-3190](#) (Land/D-1; Andrzejczak/D-1; Armato/D-2)/[S-250](#) (Van Drew/D-1; Gopal/D-11)

Assembly amended and passed 63-10-0 and sent to Governor. Businesses located within the boundaries of general aviation airports operated by an interstate authority and located in a county that has no more than 125,000 residents would be able to receive tax credits for job creation and retention under the Grow NJ program. This legislation will help spur growth in and near Atlantic City's burgeoning aviation industry.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

EDUCATION

Support

Career and Technical Education Bond Act

[**S-2293**](#) (Sweeney/D-3; Oroho/R-24; Gordon/D-38; Bucco/R-25)

Senate passed 37-1 and sent to Governor. Titled the "Securing Our Children's Future Bond Act," authorizes the issuance of \$1 billion in state general obligation bonds. Proceeds from the bonds would be used to provide grants to county vocational school districts and county colleges to build and equip education facilities that expand or offer new career and technical education programs.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

LABOR

Oppose

Unemployment Compensation and Labor Disputes

[**A-3861**](#) (Quijano/D-20; DeAngelo/D-14; Giblin/D-34)/[**S-1046**](#) (Vitale/D-19; Gopal/D-11)

Senate passed 23-14 and sent to Governor. Concerns unemployment compensation and labor disputes. 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 legislation was inspired by the Verizon strike, which was resolved in 2016. It is modeled after similar legislation in New York and Alaska. The State Chamber has concerns regarding the impact of this proposal on the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Contact: [Michael Egenton](#)

STATE GOVERNMENT

Support

Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology

[**A-3652**](#) (Zwicker/D-16; Coughlin/D-19; DePhillips/R-40)/[**S-2329**](#) (Sarlo/D-36; Singer/R-30)

Senate passed 39-0 and sent to Governor. Re-establishes the former NJ Commission on Science and Technology as the NJ Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology. In addition to the powers of the commission provided in statute, the legislation requires the commission to appoint an Innovation Council from its membership which would determine how to stimulate technology transfer between public and private research institutions of higher education and industry. The legislation requires the commission to support the fields of science, innovation, and technology that offer potential for application or commercialization, or both, in New Jersey, and helping find

funding sources.

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TAXATION

Support

Establishes the "Garden State Film and Digital Media Jobs Act"

[A-1038](#) (Johnson/D-37; Moriarty/D-4; Greenwald/D-6) [S-122](#) (Weinberg/D37; Sarlo/D-36; Johnson/D-37; Moriarty/D-4; Greenwald/D-6)

Assembly concurred with Governor's recommendations, passed 59-18-0 and sent to Governor. This legislation provides corporation business tax and gross income tax credit for certain expenses incurred for production of certain films and digital media content. The committee amendments clarify that the tax credit verification report will be prepared in accordance with agreed upon procedures promulgated by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority and the Director of the Division of Taxation.

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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.

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