

## TRENTON WATCH

**December 21, 2016**

**Tracking Legislation and Other Items Important to the Business Community:**

### **CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

#### ***Assembly Appropriations Committee***



**Emergency Price Increases - S-2321 (Oroho/R-24; Beach/D-6; Burzichelli/D-3; Wisniewski/D-19; Mosquera/D-4; Houghtaling/D-11; Wimberly/D-35):** Assembly committee passed. Assembly passed 77-0-0, sent to the Governor. Amends statutory language regarding price-gouging during a state of emergency by specifying an exact period of time during which excessive price increases would be prohibited. This bill stipulates that excessive price increases would be prohibited during a state of emergency and for an initial period of 30 days following the declaration of a state of emergency, unless the Governor extends the prohibition for periods of time up to 10 days. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

**Assembly Appropriations Committee A-3774/S-2321 Vote:** Burzichelli, John J. (C) - Yes; Lagana, Joseph A. (VC) - Yes; Carroll, Michael Patrick - Yes; Conaway, Herb - Yes; DiMaio, John - Yes; Lampitt, Pamela R. - Yes; Mosquera, Gabriela M. - Not Voting; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Phoebus, Gail - Yes; Quijano, Annette - Not Voting; Schaer, Gary S. - Yes

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### ***Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee***



**Creates New Jersey Advanced Manufacturing Council - A-3265 (Singleton/D-7; Johnson/D-37)/S-1530 (Van Drew/D-1):** Assembly committee passed. Creates the New Jersey Advanced Manufacturing Council to convene and enable industry-led, private-public partnerships focused on engaging New Jersey institutions of higher education in manufacturing innovation. Advanced manufacturing - including chemical; computer and electronic product; machinery; and transportation manufacturing - has been an emerging industry, contributing more than \$17 billion to New Jersey's GDP in 2009. The council will serve as a conduit to assist in developing a high technology trained workforce in New Jersey. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

**Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee A-3265 Vote:** Johnson, Gordon M. (C) - Yes; Pintor Marin, Eliana (VC) - Yes; Auth, Robert - Abstain; Bucco, Anthony M. - Yes; Chiaravalloti, Nicholas - Yes; Coughlin, Craig J. - Yes; DeCroce, BettyLou - Yes; Eustace, Tim - Yes; Mukherji, Raj - Not Voting; Munoz, Nancy F. - Yes; Muoio, Elizabeth Maher - Not Voting; Oliver, Sheila Y. - Yes



**BEIP Tax Credits - S-2477** (Sarlo/D-36; Oroho/R-24; Schaer/D-36; Space/R-24; Mukherji/D-33; Singleton/D-7): Senate passed 37-0, sent to the Governor. 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](#)

#### **Senate Economic Growth Committee and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee**



**Two-Year UEZ Extension - A-4189** (Gusciora/D-15; Muoio/D-15; Mukherji/D-33; Pintor Marin/D-29; Chiaravalloti/D-31; Wimberly/D-35; Van Drew/D-1; Turner/D-15): Senate committee passed. Senate passed 24-12, Assembly passed 53-23-1, sent to the Governor. The bill extends the duration of the first five UEZs (Bridgeton, Camden, Newark, Plainfield and Trenton) for two years. The bill directs 10 percent of the revenue to the New Jersey UEZ fund and the remaining revenues would be appropriated for use by the UEZs for economic development and job creation purposes only, allowing the communities to become self-sustainable. The commissioner of Community Affairs is directed to issue a report on the program to the Governor and the Legislature six months after the bill's enactment, to assess the possibility of an alternative, location-based program. This would allow for the businesses in the UEZ to undergo an easier transition after the two-year extension. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#) and [Lauren Lalicon](#)

**Senate Economic Growth Committee A-4189/S-2670 Vote:** Lesniak, Raymond J. (C) - Yes; Cruz-Perez, Nilsa (VC) - Yes; Kyrrillos, Joseph M. - No; Oroho, Steven V. - No; Whelan, Jim - Yes

**Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee A-4189/S-2670 Vote:** JSarlo, Paul A. (C) - Yes; Stack, Brian P. (VC) - Yes; Beck, Jennifer - Yes; Bucco, Anthony R. - Abstain; Cruz-Perez, Nilsa - Yes; Cunningham, Sandra B. - Yes; Diegnan, Patrick J., Jr. - Yes; Greenstein, Linda R. - Yes; O'Toole, Kevin J. - No; Oroho, Steven V. - Not Voting; Sweeney, Stephen M. - Yes; Thompson, Samuel D. - No; Van Drew, Jeff - Yes

#### **Assembly Appropriations Committee**



**Establishes the Main Street Economic Development Program - A-2223** (Benson/D-14; Johnson/D-37; Mazzeo/D-2; DeCroce/R-26; Mosquera/D-4; Huttler/D-37; Coughlin/D-19; Jones/D-5)/**S-892** (Whelan/D-2; Bucco/R-25): Assembly committee passed. Provides financial and technical assistance to businesses located in a Main Street area within a small municipality. The State Chamber believes this measure will strengthen small businesses located on Main Streets throughout New Jersey. **Contact:** [Lauren Lalicon](#)

**Assembly Appropriations Committee A-2223 Vote:** Burzichelli, John J. (C) - Yes; Lagana, Joseph A. (VC) - Yes; Carroll, Michael Patrick - No; Conaway, Herb - Yes; DiMaio, John - Yes; Lampitt, Pamela R. - Yes; Mosquera, Gabriela M. - Not Voting; Mukherji, Raj - Yes; Phoebus, Gail - Yes; Quijano, Annette - Not Voting; Schaer, Gary S. - Yes



**Microenterprise Assistance - S-1509** (Turner/D-15; Cruz-Perez/D-5; Singleton/D-7; Mukherji/D-33; Oliver/D-34; Muoio/D-15; Houghtaling/D-11): Senate passed 37-0, sent to the Governor. Provides counseling and assistance to microbusiness startups. One-Stop Career Centers would be required to provide additional services focused on microenterprise training. A previous version of the bill was amended at the request of the State Chamber to ensure that experienced business counselors provide the assistance. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

## **EDUCATION/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee**



**Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships - A-1668** (Schaer/D-36; Jasey/D-27; Johnson/D-37; Zwicker/D-16; Giblin/D-34; Downey/D-11; Wimberly/D-35; Kean/R-21): Senate committee passed. Senate passed 37-0, sent to the Governor. 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 Budget and Appropriations Committee S-354/A-1668 Vote:** Sarlo, Paul A. (C) - Yes; Stack, Brian P. (VC) - Yes; Beck, Jennifer - Yes; Bucco, Anthony R. - Yes; Cunningham, Sandra B. - Yes; Diegnan, Patrick J., Jr. - Yes; Greenstein, Linda R. - Yes; O'Toole, Kevin J. - Yes; Oroho, Steven V. - Yes; Sweeney, Stephen M. - Yes; Thompson, Samuel D. - Yes; Van Drew, Jeff - Yes; Vitale, Joseph F. - Yes

## **GOVERNMENT REFORM**

### ***Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee***



**Local Shared Services - S-234 (Singer/R-30; Bucco/R-25):** Senate committee passed. Permits state aid to fund start-up costs for local shared services projects. This bill expands the State's ability to assist local units in participating in the "Sharing Available Resources Efficiently" program. It allows the use of the program's funding for start-up costs that may be financed through obtaining debt or capital lease agreements, including but not limited to the costs of installing and maintaining wireless infrastructure. State aid is limited to no more than \$200,000. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

**Senate Community Affairs S-234 Vote:** Van Drew, Jeff (C) - Yes; Rice, Ronald L. (VC) - Not Voting; Beck, Jennifer - Yes; Connors, Christopher J. - Yes; Stack, Brian P. - Yes

## **HEALTH**

### ***Assembly Health Committee***



**Authorizes Telemedicine - A-1464 (Lampitt/D-6; Coughlin/D-19; Conaway/D-7; Huttie/D-37; Lagana/D-38)/S-291 (Vitale/D-19; Whelan/D-2; Allen/R-7; Turner/D-15):** Testimony heard, no action taken. This legislation allows healthcare practitioners to remotely provide healthcare services to patients in New Jersey through video and audio technology. The bill encourages innovation and allows more access to healthcare. The State Chamber supports the intent of the legislation but is seeking amendments to address the payment parity clause of the bill which requires carriers to reimburse providers at the same rate as an in-person visit. This clause restricts the carrier's ability to cut down costs for consumers. **Contact:** [Lauren Lalicon](#)

## **LABOR**



**Penalties for Failure to Pay Wages - A-862 (Quijano/D-20; Muoio/D-15; Lampitt/D-6)/S-1396 (Weinberg/D-37):** Assembly held. The bill seeks to assist workers who are not paid in a timely manner by imposing excessive enforcement procedures and a variety of criminal, civil and administrative sanctions. The State Chamber believes the penalties proposed in the legislation are exceedingly harsh and place an onerous burden on the employer whose inability to pay timely wages may be due to circumstances beyond their control. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)



**Wage Transparency Act - A-1444 (Lampitt/D-6; Mosquera/D-4; Johnson/D-37; Huttie/D-37; Benson/D-14; Wimberly/D-35):** Assembly passed 50-27-0. 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. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)



**Equal Pay and Employment Discrimination - S-992 (Weinberg/D-37; Sweeney/D-3; Cunningham/D-31; Lampitt/D-6; Muoio/D-15; Huttie/D-37; Downey/D-11; Mukherji/D-33):** Senate held. Concerns equal pay for women and employment discrimination. The State Chamber agreed with the Governor's conditional veto issued on May 2, 2016 which

recommended common sense protections. The Governor suggested that this bill mirror the provisions of the "Lilly Ledbetter Act" to limit back pay to two years, instead of providing for unlimited back pay for employees, and removing the provision of the bill that would impose excessive reporting requirements on all public contractors. **Contact:** [Michael Egenton](#)

## **TRANSPORTATION**



**Regulates Transportation Network Companies - [S-2179](#) (Sarlo/D-36; Kyrillos/R-13; Lagana/D-38; Singleton/D-7; Wisniewski/D-19; DeCroce/R-26):** Senate passed 29-5, Assembly passed 69-7-0, sent to the Governor. 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. Additional amendments regarding insurance will provide more coverage in the event of an accident. Ridesharing companies are innovative companies that provide safe and affordable transportation options to New Jersey residents, businesses and visitors. **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.