

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

Association of Chambers Agenda to Help Business Across Delaware

BY JAMES DECHENE



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THIS FALL, Delaware's 14 chambers of commerce got together to brainstorm a unified legislative and regulatory agenda that would benefit businesses of all sizes across the state. From maintaining family friendly beaches, to investing in broadband infrastructure in Kent and Sussex counties, to paving the way for competitive association health plans, this list of priorities runs the gamut of issues, and is supported by industry groups throughout Delaware.

These initiatives, while not exhaustive, provide a road map on where we think successful efforts can be made to help businesses grow in Delaware.

DSCC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Infrastructure/Technology

- Bring more broadband options to Sussex/Kent counties
- Address known prevailing wage issues
 - Redesign survey to improve accuracy of data
 - Use updated data to revamp wage rate calculation
- Curtail increased utility costs by avoiding new mandates on residential and commercial payers

Health Insurance/Health Care costs

- Focus on underwriting regulations at Department of Insurance to allow varied options for employer health care policies including association plans

Tourism

- Create statewide accommodations tax for person to person short term rentals
- Focus on environmental issues (clean water, storm water regulations, etc.)
- Make sure Delaware beaches remain family friendly

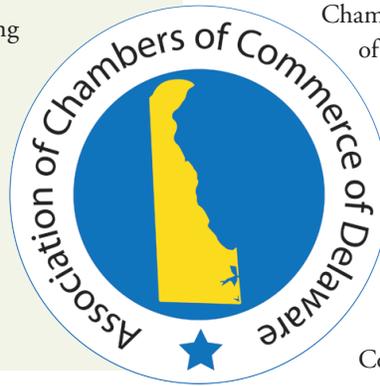
Legislative Priority

Workforce Development

- Focus on technical/vocational training
 - Identify currently untapped Pathways program material
 - Identify work-based learning programs to partner/expand/develop curriculum
 - Work with tech schools to support vocational study
 - Help develop coding curriculum for general education across the state

Regulations/Permitting

- Work to create culture change at permitting agencies to help streamline permitting process without sacrificing public health and safety
- Work to create “common app” approach to permitting
 - One stop for all applications, forms, etc. for permitting a project or starting a business for state, local, municipal regulations



The Association of Chambers will be highlighting the importance of these initiatives to members of the General Assembly and state agencies, and that solutions can come by working together. Examples of the issues to be solved and approaches to solve them can be found later in this edition in an article written by Guy Marozzi. None of these proposals by themselves are meant as a silver bullet to address Delaware’s long-term economic goals, but taken together they certainly put us on the right path.

Association of Chambers of Commerce members include:
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce, Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce, Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, Delaware Small Business Chamber, Greater Delmar Chamber of Commerce, Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, Lewes Chamber of Commerce, Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, Millsboro Chamber of Commerce, Milton Chamber of Commerce, New Castle County Chamber of Commerce, Rehoboth Beach – Dewey Beach Chamber of Commerce, Western Sussex Chamber of Commerce

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