

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING

150TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY



DSCC Supported:

SB 61: Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIFF)

PASSED

The passage of this State Chamber-backed bill will create a Transportation Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIFF) to help expedite commercial and industrial development projects.

SB 65: Focus on Alternative Skills Training Program (FAST)

CURRENTLY IN SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE

The bill would have provided up to \$9K to Delaware high school graduates to obtain non-degree certifications, outlined by the Delaware Workforce Development Board.

SB 74: Modifying the New Economy Jobs Credit

PASSED

This bill provides employers taking advantage of the New Economy Jobs credit to prorate the credit over 12 months, rather than using the calendar year. This will allow employers making hires at the end of the year a full 12 months to spread out the credit.

HB 80: Earned Income Tax Credit

PASSED

The Chamber supports this bill making the EITC a refundable credit in Delaware. This type of measure does more to support low income workers than minimum wage increases. A 2007 study by the University of New Hampshire found that seven out of 10 economists agree that the EITC is the best antipoverty program available to us, while only one out of 10 said the same thing about minimum wage hikes. The bill makes the EITC a refundable tax credit for Delaware state returns.



DSCC Monitored:

HB 251 & HB 252: Tipped Workers

CURRENTLY IN HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HB 252 proposes raising the tipped worker minimum wage to 65% of the current minimum wage, and HB 251 would govern how tips are reported and paid out by an employer. The State Chamber is currently reviewing these bills with industry organizations and representatives to judge their impact.

New Coastal Zone Act Conversion Permit Regulations Released

The State Chamber had representation on the CZA Regulatory Advisory Council (RAC) that met to iron out the process by which a company could apply for a Coastal Zone Act Conversion Permit to utilize certain properties within Delaware's Coastal Zone. Those recommendations were then forwarded to DNREC, which dismissed many of those recommendations instead opting for more Draconian measures that would chill intended development of those properties. The State Chamber submitted comments during the official comment period addressing the shortcomings including permit duration limitations to be set by the DNREC Secretary, climate change modeling difficult if not impossible to achieve, and financial assurances that go beyond the scope of the enabling legislation. The final promulgated regulations saw none of these suggestions adopted. The State Chamber's concerns going forward remain focused that the process by which to obtain a conversion permit is arbitrary and disincentivizes investment in these properties.



The State Chamber remains committed to creating a statewide economic climate that enables all businesses to become more competitive in Delaware.



DSCC Opposed:

HB 15: New Personal Income Tax Brackets

CURRENTLY AWAITING FLOOR ACTION

This bill proposed adding two new tax brackets: 7.1% for earners at \$125k or more, and 7.85% at \$250K. This bill would put Delaware at a competitive disadvantage compared to surrounding states and goes directly against what the DEFAC Taskforce on Revenues advised in their 2015 report. Such a measure adds volatility to Delaware's revenues, another reason the State Chamber opposed it.

SB 71: Pharmacy Ownership & Pharmacy Benefits Managers

AMENDED VERSION AWAITING SENATE VOTE

The original bill mandates that all future pharmacies run in Delaware be owned and operated by a pharmacist or an entity comprised of a majority of pharmacists. This would have serious impacts on the pharmacy, developer and construction industries in Delaware, as chain pharmacies, grocery stores and stores like Walmart and Target would no longer be able to run their pharmacies themselves, and would instead have to lease out space to pharmacists/pharmacist groups if they wanted one in their store. This would have a chilling effect on future development and expansion of these entities in Delaware. The State Chamber and others have asked for the bill to be delayed until next year so that we can work toward a compromise. An amended version passed the House on June 30th, and is awaiting a vote a Senate.

SB 105: Minimum Wage Increase

CURRENTLY IN SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The State Chamber successfully held back the passing of a minimum wage increase, which would have raised Delaware's minimum wage to \$11 in January 2020 and then by a dollar each year until it hits \$15 in 2024. The bill passed out of the Senate Labor Committee, but was moved over to Senate Finance Committee where it will sit until next year.

HB 110: Marijuana Legalization

CURRENTLY IN HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The State Chamber successfully blocked the passage of a marijuana legalization bill last year. The bill is currently in the House Appropriations Committee until 2020. DSCC will remain opposed to the bill for reasons such as restrictions in how employers can create employment policies surrounding marijuana use, the current difficulty for employers finding qualified applicants that can pass a drug screen, and the lack of a spot test for impairment.

HB 117: Prohibition of Harmful Flame Retardants

CURRENTLY IN HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This bill would make illegal in Delaware certain flame retardant chemicals used in many commercial applications such as mattresses and toys. If passed, it would force national retailers and manufacturers to change their production lines to accommodate Delaware, making it more likely that products would be pulled from Delaware shelves, or would force purchases to be made across the Delaware border and brought across state lines.

