



TRENTON WATCH

October and November 2020

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

A-4589 (Lopez/D-19; Danielsen/D-17; Freiman/D-16; DeAngelo/D-14)
S-2597 (Gopal/D-11; Vitale/D-19)

Extends time period during which seasonal retail consumption license holders may sell alcoholic beverages following COVID-19 pandemic.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly passed 49-21-0; Senate passed 28-9 and sent to Governor.

CONSTRUCTION CODES

S-1739 (Oroho/R-24; Beach/D-6)
A-1145 (Freiman/D-16; Egan/D-17; Karabinchak/D-18)

Establishes "Electronic Permit Processing Review System," a web-based system allowing for the electronic submission, review and approval of applications for construction permits, plans, and specifications, scheduling of inspections, and the exchange of information between parties.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee passed.

A-4850 (Karabinchak/D-18; Freiman/D-16; Calabrese/D-36)

Establishes an alternate inspection process for property owners willing to pay a premium fee to expedite inspections. The bill would also authorize a property owner to retain a private agency to perform construction code inspections if the local code enforcing agency is unable to complete an inspection within three business days of the time the owner requests the inspection to be performed.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee passed.



CONSUMER AFFAIRS

A-2161 (Mukherji/D-33; Benson/D-14; Webber/R-26)

Allows NJ gross income tax deduction for charitable contributions of food made from business inventory.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Consumer Affairs Committee amended and passed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

S-2704 (Sweeney/D-3; Gopal/D-11; Bucco/R-25; Cruz-Perez/D-5)

A-4413 (Bramnick/R-21; Burzichelli/D-3; DeCroce/R-26)

Appropriates \$30 million to EDA from federal "Coronavirus Relief Fund" to assist food establishments impacted by Executive Order No. 158. The Governor said the goals of this legislation had already been achieved after the administration announced an additional \$100 million in CARES Act funding would be available to support New Jersey residents and businesses, including \$35 million dedicated to food establishments.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Governor absolute vetoed.

S-3046 (Ruiz/D-29; Pou/D-35)

A-4875 (Pintor Marin/D-29; Wimberly/D-35; Sumter/D-35)

Extends certain document submission deadlines for Urban Transit Hub Tax Credit program and Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant Program. The Governor recommended that an additional \$20 million in tax credits be made available under the ERGG program to help combat the pandemic's negative impacts on project development in the real estate market.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate passed 25-0; Assembly passed 71-1-0 and sent to Governor. Governor conditionally vetoed. Senate concurred with Governor's recommendations 34-2.

AR-170 (Moen/D-5; Vainieri Huttler/D-37; Mazzeo/D-2)

Urges New Jersey residents to patronize small businesses to support them through COVID-19 pandemic.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly passed 72-0; Resolution was filed with the Secretary of State.



EDUCATION

[A-4409](#) (Jasey/D-27; Downey/D-11; Reynolds-Jackson/D-15)

[S-1271](#) (Cunningham/D-31; Gopal/D-11) / [S-2660](#) (Gopal/D-11; Cunningham/D-31)

Establishes requirements for closures of private career schools and institutions of higher education, modifies review process of new academic programs, and requires approval of branch campuses. These bills have been combined. The State Chamber has taken a neutral position because there are members on both sides of this issue.

Position: NEUTRAL

Status: Assembly Higher Education Committee and Assembly Appropriations Committee amended and passed. Assembly passed 56-16-2.

ENERGY

[S-2484](#) (Singleton/D-7; Rice/D-28)

Establishes Office of Clean Energy Equity in the Board of Public Utilities (BPU), directs the establishment of certain clean energy, energy efficiency, and energy storage programs for overburdened communities, and makes a change to the community solar program.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed. Senate passed 28-10.

[A-3367](#) (Johnson/D-37; Kennedy/D-22; Benson/D-14)

[S-1951](#) (Smith/D-17; Codey/D-27)

Concerns the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in common interest communities.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Governor signed into law.



ENVIRONMENT

A-4851 (Coughlin/D-19)

Authorizes the use of steel slag as an aggregate in industrial and commercial development and in the remediation of contaminated sites.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed.

GOVERNMENT REFORM

A-4810 (Pinkin/D-18; Vainieri Huttle/D-37; Murphy/D-7)

Creates the Government Efficiency and Regulatory Review Commission to assess the effect that rules and regulations and Executive Orders have on the State's economy, and to provide recommendations to the Governor to amend any rules and regulations or Executive Orders that unduly burden the State's businesses, workers, and local governments.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed. Assembly passed 72-1-0.

INSURANCE

A-1708 (Burzichelli/D-3; Conaway/D-7; Downey/D-11)

Requires workers' compensation, PIP, and health insurance coverage for the medical use of cannabis under certain circumstances. Members have concerns related to the cost and the possibility of retaliatory actions from the federal government.

Position: OPPOSE/SEEKING AMENDMENTS

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee amended and passed.

A-4805 (Freiman/D-16; Tully/D-38; Daniels/D-17)

Requires certain insurers to disclose whether business interruption insurance policy provides pandemic coverage. The State Chamber is neutral based on the amendments.

Position: NEUTRAL

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee amended and passed. Assembly passed 72-0-0.



LABOR

A-4804 (Downey/D-11; Houghtaling/D-11; Speight/D-29)

Establishes a process to enable minors to obtain working papers during a state of emergency or public health emergency without requiring the minor to be physically present before the issuing officer.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed. Assembly passed 72-0-0.

S-3011 (Madden/D-4; Sweeney/D-3)

A-4853 (Greenwald/D-6; Mazzeo/D-2; Verrelli/D-15)

Reduces or delays increases in employer unemployment taxes related to benefits paid during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic state of emergency.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Labor Committee and Senate Labor Committee passed their respective versions of the bill. Assembly passed 72-0-0; Senate passed 39-0 and sent to Governor.

MANUFACTURING

S-1957 (Greenstein/D-14; Oroho/R-24)

A-3756 (DePhillips/R-40; Zwicker/D-16; Speight/D-29)

Establishes a permanent new source of funding of up to \$1.5 million for the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program, Inc., or an appropriate successor from the Workforce Development Partnership Fund.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Labor Committee passed the Assembly version. Senate passed 34-0; Assembly passed 72-0-0 and sent to Governor.



MARIJUANA

S-21 (Scutari/D-22; Sweeney/D-3)

A-21 (Quijano/D-20; Holley/D-20; Timberlake/D-34; McKnight/D-31; Daniels/D-17; Wimberly/D-35)

Establishes the "New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act," legalizes personal use cannabis for certain adults, subject to regulation by Cannabis Regulatory Commission, and removes marijuana as a Schedule I drug. Several amendments were made in both houses pertaining to the sales tax and workplace safety protections, but the legislation was unable to proceed for a final vote due to an impasse among legislators. While the State Chamber historically has remained neutral on the legalization of cannabis, we have been weighing in on the workplace safety protections. We supported the original language on workplace safety, but have expressed some concerns with the recent amendments.

Position: NEUTRAL/SEEKING AMENDMENTS

Status: Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee passed. Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed their respective versions of the bill.

S-2535 (Ruiz/D-29; Rice/D-28; Cunningham/D-31; Scutari/D-22)

A-1897 (Wimberly/D-35; Quijano/D-20; Holley/D-20; Speight/D-29; McKnight/D-31; Timberlake/D-34)

Provides for certain criminal and civil justice reforms, particularly addressing legal consequences associated with certain marijuana and hashish offenses, as well as raising awareness of available expungement relief. The State Chamber supported the workplace safety provisions already in the bill, and also supported the recent amendment to clarify that anti-discrimination protections against an employer's actions on the basis of an employee's marijuana or hashish offense or offenses involving distribution, possession, and drug paraphernalia, would take into consideration whether an employer "relied solely" on such offenses when making an employment decision, allowing some consideration of such offenses by employers.

Position: NEUTRAL

Status: Senate Judiciary Committee amended and passed; Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed. Senate passed 29-4.



PUBLIC CONTRACTS

S-300 (Pennacchio/R-26; Kean/R-21)

Requires Division of Purchase and Property to issue annual report on public contracts awarded to women-owned and minority-owned businesses. The bill also requires the Division of Revenue to operate a Selective Assistance Vendor Information (SAVI) database.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate passed 35-0.

S-2768 (Singleton/D-7; Ruiz/D-29)

Authorizes the State Chief Diversity Officer to conduct a disparity study concerning the utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in the state procurement process.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate passed 36-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A-4803 (Sumter/D-35; Karabinchak/D-18; Pinkin/D-18; DeCroce/R-26; Spearman/D-5; Zwicker/D-16)

Concerns approval process for personal protective equipment and state stockpiles of personal protective equipment.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed; Assembly passed 72-0.

A-4910 (Burzichelli/D-3; Johnson/D-37; Danielsen/D-17)

Establishes a county-based mitigation plan to allow businesses to operate during the pandemic. The State Chamber President testified in support of this regional approach.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee passed.



PUBLIC UTILITIES

A-4556 (Karabinchak/D-18; Pinkin/D-18; Zwicker/D-16; Quijano/D-20)

Requires the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to establish and maintain an electronic public records access service on its website, and also requires the BPU to provide certain notice of its meetings and hearings and allow public comment.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee amended and passed; Assembly passed 72-0-0.

REGULATION

A-485 (Webber/R-26; Vainieri Huttler/D-37; Mazzeo/D-2)

Creates the "Home-Based Jobs Creation Act" which permits a family home business to exist in a residential zone as a permitted accessory use.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed. Assembly amended during a voting session.

SMALL BUSINESS

A-2226 (Dancer/R-12; Houghtaling/D-11; Downey/D-11)

Suspends fines for certain first-time paperwork violations committed by small businesses.

Position: SUPPORT


Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed; Assembly Appropriations Committee passed.

A-4525 (Freiman/D-16; Mazzeo/D-2; Verrelli/D-15; Houghtaling/D-11)

S-3128 (Pou/D-35; Sarlo/D-36; Cruz-Perez/D-5)

Expands opportunities for restaurants, bars, distilleries and breweries to provide outdoor dining, and permits certain farms to adjust operations in response to COVID-19 public health emergency.

Position: SUPPORT



Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed. Senate passed 39-0; Assembly passed 74-0 and sent to Governor.

TAXATION

A-1269 (Greenwald/D-6; Giblin/D-34)

Eliminates the 1% fee and the 1% tax on purchasers of Class 4A commercial property transferred for consideration in excess of \$1 million.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development passed.

A-4402 (McKeon/D-27)

Imposes tax on high-quantity processors of financial transactions at \$0.0025 per transaction. Sponsors were considering amendments to reduce the tax rate to \$0.0001 per transaction and make it temporary. The State Chamber President testified in strong opposition to this legislation, regardless of whether or not it is amended.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee held discussion only.

A-4809 (Pintor-Marin/D-29; Sumter/D-35)

S-3007 (Sarlo/D-36; Singleton/D-7)

Revises, clarifies, corrects, and simplifies various aspects of the Corporation Business Tax (CBT) law that was enacted during the budget process in 2018. Tax experts from State Chamber member companies were instrumental in working with the Division of Taxation to arrive at this final version.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee passed their respective versions of the bill. Assembly passed 72-0-0; Senate passed 34-0 and sent to Governor. Governor signed into law.

AR-193 (Mazzeo/D-2; Karabinchak/D-18)

Urges federal government to raise state and local tax deduction to \$25,000.

Position: SUPPORT



Status: Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee passed. Assembly passed 70-0-1 and filed with the Secretary of State.

S-357 (Cryan/D-20; Vitale/D-19; Sarlo/D-36) / **S-624** (Sarlo/D-36; Singleton/D-7)
A-1135 (Coughlin/D-19; Karabinchak/D-18; Vainieri Huttle/D-37)

Reinstates prior property tax exemption for nonprofit hospitals with on-site for-profit medical providers; requires some of these hospitals to pay community service contributions; establishes Nonprofit Hospital Community Service Contribution Study Commission; prohibits certain third-party property tax appeals.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed.

S-563 (Madden/D-4; Sweeney/D-3; Singleton/D-7)

Restricts authority to terminate reciprocal personal income tax agreements with other states.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee passed.

S-1162 (Turner/D-15; Pou/D-35)

Allows corporation business tax and gross income tax credits to businesses employing qualified ex-offenders.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Commerce Committee passed.

S-3015 (Sweeney/D-3; Greenstein/D-14)

Provides temporary corporation business tax and gross income tax credits for job creation related to manufacturing of personal protective equipment.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee passed. Senate passed 39-0.

S-3064 (Oroho/R-24; Sarlo/D-36)

Requires State Treasurer to issue report concerning New York's taxation of New Jersey residents' income. The State Chamber does not oppose a study, but would caution the state



moving forward in the future. We have members on both sides of this – some members have the mechanisms in place, while it would be a major burden for others to implement.

Position: NEUTRAL

Status: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee passed. Senate passed 35-0.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

A-229 (DeAngelo/D-14; Wimberly/D-35; Danielsen/D-17)

Requires telecommunications companies to provide prorated refunds for service outages of longer than 72 hours.

Position: OPPOSE/SEEKING AMENDMENTS

Status: Assembly passed 70-1-0.

A-2614 (Murphy/D-7; Benson/D-14; Timberlake/D-34)

Creates the “21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act,” which requires the Office of Information Technology and agencies in the Executive Branch of state government to provide citizens with a modern digital experience by updating the platforms through which these agencies provide services to businesses and members of the general public.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee amended and passed.

A-2991 (Burzichelli/D-3; Mazzeo/D-2; Armato/D-2)

Concerns local taxation of business personal property of local exchange telephone companies.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Assembly State and Local Government Committee passed.



TRANSPORTATION

A-1285 (Greenwald/D-6; Chiaravalloti/D-31; Moen/D-5)

S-2874 (Singleton/D-7; Cryan/D-20; Oroho/R-24)

Establishes the “Design-Build Consturction Services Procurement Act,” which sets procedures for the awarding of design-build contracts for state and local contracting units.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee amended and passed their respective versions of the bill.

