

Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
2007–08 Government Affairs Report

- One of the main missions of the Delaware County Chamber is to promote the growth and development of the regional business community through the advocacy of positive and permanent business friendly government laws and regulations. This entails effective communication with elected officials; and development of strategic partnerships to accomplish these objectives.
- The Chamber has an active Government Affairs Committee, and this committee is an integral part of the Chamber's government affairs advocacy efforts. The Government Affairs Committee, comprised of volunteers from the Chamber membership, meets once a month to discuss legislation and give guidance on issues of importance.
- During the 2007/2008 Legislative Session, the Chamber of Commerce staff and Government Affairs Committee reviewed over 2000 pieces of legislation and specifically tracked over [115 bills](#) for the State Legislature alone.
- The Chamber often took positions on these bills and advocated those standpoints with direct conversations, testimony, grass root lobbying, and correspondence with elected officials. Samples of correspondence are below, including positions the Chamber took in writing on:
  - [Impact of Local Policies](#)
  - [MCARE & PHC4 Reauthorization](#)
  - [Attempts to Freeze Development](#)
  - [Tax Credits for Businesses that Employ Disadvantaged Youth](#)
  - [Property Taxes](#)
  - [CNI, NOL, SSF & CSFT](#)
  - [Energy](#)
  - [Mass Transit Funding](#)
  - [Unfair Environmental Regulations](#)
  - [Taxing of Job Providers](#)
  - [Card Check Bill](#)

In fact, Chamber advocacy, such as these letters, helped to hold the line on many new and/or expanded business taxes proposed in 2007 and 2008. This includes assisting in blocking the original energy bill surcharge that funded Rendell's proposed \$850 million alternative energy plan. The Chamber also helped with the abandonment of the detrimental 3 percent payroll tax within Governor Rendell's Cover All Pennsylvanian's Legislation.

- The Chamber staff and Government Affairs Committee also reviewed votes by the Delaware County legislative delegation, and used that information to grade legislators. Voting percentages can be viewed by clicking [here](#). For more information on which votes were graded please click [here](#) for House and for Senate please click [here](#).
- To further support the Government Affairs Committee's mission, the Chamber composed a [Legislative Agenda](#) in an effort to educate the Legislative Delegation of issues of importance. The items outlined on this document are healthcare reform, enhancing the business climate with lower taxes and less restrictions, improved infrastructure and tort reform.
- The Chamber took the opportunity to not only educate the legislative delegation on these priorities, but also the Chamber Membership. In addition, to publishing the Legislative Agenda, the Chamber staff kept the membership informed with Government Affairs Update Columns in the chamber newsletter. Samples of some columns are below, including:
  - [2008 Budget Analysis](#)
  - [SEPAAC Benefits Pro-Business Agenda](#)
  - [Access to Basic Care Plan of Concern to the Business Community](#)
  - [Business Community Advocacy Helps Remove Detrimental Payroll Tax](#)
  - [Death Tax](#)
  - [2007 Budget Update](#)

- The Chamber also held several very successful events to promote the legislative agenda. The events gave the membership the chance to interact with policy makers first hand. Events in 2007 and 2008 included:
  - Two State Legislator Breakfast Forums with legislators from across the county such as Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi and the Minority Chair for the House Appropriations Committee, Mario Civera.
  - Two Federal Forums where the Chamber Membership heard from Congressman Joe Sestak.
  - 5 County and Municipal Forums that focused on County operations and also the importance of municipalities such as Chester and Upper Darby.
  
- The Chamber also worked with several strategic partners to further the legislative agenda. This includes the [Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry](#) and the [Pennsylvania Business Council](#). The Chamber also joined the [Compete PA](#), and [Pennsylvanian's for Reliable Power](#) coalitions.
  
- The Delaware County Chamber is also an active participant in SEPAC. SEPAC is a Political Action Committee comprised of Members from the Delaware County, Main Line and TriCounty Area Chambers of Commerce. These three chambers of commerce represent over 5,000 members across 4 counties, and are the premier business advocacy organizations within Southeastern Pennsylvania. In 2007 & 2008 SEPAC raised over \$15,000 to support pro-business elected officials, including a very successful fundraiser in 2007 for Delaware County Council candidates that raised \$6,000 alone. SEPAC also endorsed pro business candidates for the 2008 legislative races. For a list of those endorsements please click [here](#).

## Legislation Tracked by Chamber for 2008/2009

[\*\*HB 43\*\*](#) Rubley Amends Title 27 (Environmental Resources) providing for uniform environmental covenants.  
*12-18-07 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 68)*

[\*\*HB 110\*\*](#) Vitali Act providing for report on potential global warming impacts & economic opportunities for PA, duties of DEP, for inventory of greenhouse gases, creation of stakeholder process, voluntary registry of greenhouse gas emissions & climate plan.  
*10-31-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:182/N: 15)*  
*11-13-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Environmental Resources and Energy*

[\*\*HB 112\*\*](#) Eachus Amends Insurance Company Law further providing for effect of act on existing laws &, in insurance holding companies, for definitions, etc.; establishing Insurance Restructuring Board; providing for its powers & duties.  
*05-22-07 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 30/N: 18)*  
*05-23-07 H Received as amended in House and rereferred House Rules*

[\*\*HB 121\*\*](#) Boyd Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for a small business health savings account tax credit.  
Bill History: 01-30-07 H Filed  
01-31-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

[\*\*HB 207\*\*](#) Pickett Amends the Insurance Company Law providing for professional and trade association rate protection.  
06-04-07 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

[\*\*HB 292\*\*](#) DiGirolamo Amends the Workers' Compensation Act further defining "employee."  
Bill History: 10-22-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
*10-22-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:197/N: 0)*  
*11-05-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry*

[\*\*HB 306\*\*](#) Belfanti Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) repealing provisions relating to certain appeals from the PA Labor Relations Board; and further providing for the dissemination of names for the Statewide jury list.  
*07-04-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 35)*

[\*\*HB 377\*\*](#) Evans, D Amends Tax Reform Code, in personal income tax, providing for alt. special tax provision for poverty study; for breast & cervical cancer research contributions; & providing for volunteer responder retention & recruitment tax credit.  
*07-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 66)*

[\*\*HB 420\*\*](#) Hickernell Amends the Main Street Act further providing for the Main Street Program.  
Bill History: 10-08-08 H Signed in the House  
*10-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 99)*

[\*\*HB 489\*\*](#) Schroder Amending the Volunteer Health Services Act, providing for license renewal, continuing education requirements and disciplinary and corrective measures.  
11-12-08 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

[\*\*HB 493\*\*](#) Steil Amends the PA Construction Code Act providing for the Uniform Construction Code Advisory Council, and further providing for penalties.  
05-30-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Labor Relations

[\*\*HB 647\*\*](#) Civera Act relating to crane operator licensure; establishing the State Board of Crane Operators; conferring powers and imposing duties relative to regulating the practice of crane operation; imposing penalties; and making an appropriation.  
*10-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 100)*

[\*\*HB 763\*\*](#) Goodman Amends the Workers' Compensation Act further defining "occupational disease."  
*10-24-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:198/N: 0)*  
*11-09-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry*

[\*\*HB 834\*\*](#) Surra Act relating to hours of employment of health care employees; providing for penalties & remedies; & imposing powers & duties on the Department of Labor & Industry.  
*10-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 102)*

[\*\*HB 850\*\*](#) Turzai Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) repealing and adding provisions relating to comparative negligence.  
Bill History: 03-15-07 H Filed  
*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

[\*\*HB 904\*\*](#) Freeman Amends the PA Municipalities Planning Code adding provisions to authorize temporary development moratorium.  
*12-12-07 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

[\*\*HB 934\*\*](#) Scavello Amends the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act further providing for powers and duties of counties.  
*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**HB 1086** Shapiro Act providing for divestiture by the State Treasurer, the State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Retirement System of investments in companies doing business in Iran and Sudan.

Bill History: 09-22-08 S First consideration

10-06-08 S Passed over in committee Senate Appropriations

**HB 1096** Buxton Amends PA Construction Code Act further providing for definitions; establishing the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council; and further providing for revised or successor codes and for training of inspectors.

10-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 106)

**HB 1131** Melio Amends the Second Class Township Code providing for the establishment of fire and emergency medical services.

03-17-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 7)

**HB 1133** Melio Amends the Borough Code providing for specific powers of boroughs relating to emergency services.

03-17-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 8)

**HB 1134** Melio Amends the First Class Township Code providing for specific powers relating to emergency services.

03-17-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 9)

**HB 1150** O'Brien, D Amends the Insurance Company Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for effect of act on existing laws; in casualty insurance, providing for autism spectrum disorders coverage, ect. & making a related repeal.

07-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 62)

**HB 1167** Bianucci Amends the Insurance Dept Act further defining "Company action level event" for purposes of risk-based capital reporting requirements.

07-04-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 37)

**HB 1182** Lentz Act establishing the Southeastern PA Regional Airport Authority to operate the Philadelphia Int'l Airport and Lehigh Valley Int'l Airport; and making an appropriation.

07-23-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Transportation

**HB 1201** George Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities) further providing for the definition of "public utility"; adding a definition of "micro-grid"; further providing for duties of electric distribution companies; & providing for micro-grids.

02-25-08 H Discussed in Budget Hearing with PA PUC, House Appropriations

**HB 1206** Surra Amends the Administrative Code providing for the establishment & allocation of an additional municipal waste landfill disposal fee in the Department of Environmental Protection.

09-26-07 H Rereferred to House Rules

**HB 1275** Rohrer Act providing for tax levies & information related to taxes; authorizing the imposition of a personal income tax or an earned income; establishing Public Transportation Reserve Fund; provisions for senior citizens property tax.

07-03-08 H Resolution to discharge committee

**HB 1393** Belfanti Amends the Workers' Compensation Act providing for cost-of-living increases in the amount of compensation payable.

05-29-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor Relations

**HB 1398** Schroder Amends the Insurance Company Law providing for small group health plan rates, for coverage requirements and for marketing requirements; and making a repeal.

05-29-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

**HB 1412** Solobay Amends the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association Act further providing for funds of associations.

09-17-07 H Meeting cancelled for 09/19/07, House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

**HB 1419** Miller Act establishing the Clean Indoor Air Act; imposing duties upon the Department of Health; imposing penalties; and repealing a related provision of the Fire and Panic Act.

06-05-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

**HB 1420** Raymond Amends the Liquor Code further providing for definitions of "case," "distributor" & "importing distributor"; providing for definitions of "holiday package," "out-of-State small manufacturer" & "small manufacturer"; providing for Fund.

11-28-07 S Recommitted to Senate Law and Justice

**HB 1489** DeWeese Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing, in sales & use tax, for imposition of tax; repealing provisions relating to computation of tax; etc., & providing for deposit of certain sales tax revenue & State property tax reduction allocation.

02-04-08 H Rereferred to House Finance

**HB 1541** Gerber Act establishing the Smoke Free PA Act; prohibiting smoking in enclosed and substantially enclosed areas; imposing duties upon the Department of Health; imposing penalties; and making a related repeal.

09-26-07 H Rereferred to House Rules

**[HB 1552](#)** DeLuca Act establishing the PA Infection Control Advisory Committee; providing for duties of the committee; the DOH; PHC4 & Patient Safety Authority; requiring health care facilities to develop infection control plans; & imposing penalties.

*06-26-07 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**[HB 1566](#)** Lentz Act establishing a grant program for volunteer emergency service organizations to provide incentives for establishing partnerships, etc., & providing for funding.

*06-18-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.*

**[HB 1588](#)** Evans, D Amends Title 74 (Transportation) providing for an oil company gross profits tax; and making an appropriation.

*09-26-07 H Rereferred to House Rules*

**[HB 1590](#)** Markosek Amends Titles 53 (Municipalities), 74 (Transportation) & 75 (Vehicles) providing for minority & women-owned business participation; authorizing local taxation for public transportation assistance; repealing public transit assistance.

*07-18-07 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 44)*

**[HB 1600](#)** Levdansky Act providing for supplemental State-funded tax relief; and establishing the Personal Income Tax Surcharge Fund.

*07-03-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**[HB 1601](#)** Eachus Amends The Insurance Company Law providing for small group health benefits.

*11-20-07 H Passed over in committee House Insurance*

**[HB 1680](#)** Gibbons Amends The Minimum Wage Act providing for referendum on annual cost-of-living increase in minimum wage.

*08-22-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Labor Relations*

**[HB 1727](#)** Reichley Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for a disease management tax credit.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1728](#)** Reichley Amends the Fiscal Code further providing for disposition of the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1756](#)** Galloway Act providing for employee rest periods and for powers and duties of the Dept of Labor and Industry; and imposing penalties.

*12-04-07 H Passed over in committee House Labor Relations*

**[HB 1822](#)** Cutler Amends the Peer Review Protection Act further providing for immunity from liability; and providing for protection from retaliation.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1824](#)** Evans, J Act establishing Community-Based Health Care Provider Asst. Prgm in the DOH; setting criteria for eligibility & authorizing payments to community-based health care providers to assist in providing medically necessary care.

*06-30-08 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:199/N: 0)*

*07-02-08 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare*

**[HB 1825](#)** Killion Act requiring the Insurance Dept. to develop standard health benefit plans that certain insurers shall offer to individuals & small employers; & requiring availability of plan information by electronic and other means.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1826](#)** Mustio Amends the Tobacco Settlement Act further providing for the adult basic coverage insurance program.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1904](#)** Moul Amends the Public School Code further providing for firefighter & emergency service training.

*10-15-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.*

**[HB 1945](#)** Gillespie Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) providing for benevolent gesture or admission by health care provider.

*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**[HB 1951](#)** Perzel Act providing for elimination of property tax for older Pennsylvanians, for a 1-year cap on real property tax increases for school property tax purposes & for elimination of authority to levy real property taxes for support of public schools.

*09-15-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**[HB 1973](#)** Shapiro Amends Mcare Act, in insurance, further providing for medical professional liability insurance & Mcare Fund; in Health Care Provider Retention Prog., further providing for definitions, abatement program, eligibility, expiration & procedure.

*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**[HB 2005](#)** DeLuca Amends The Insurance Company Law providing for small group health benefits.

*04-04-08 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance*

**[HB 2018](#)** Freeman Act providing for an annual revenue sharing program for municipalities relating to tax-exempt real property; establishing the Tax-exempt Property Municipal Assistance Fund; imposing powers & duties on the DCED & making inconsistent repeal.

*06-25-08 H Press conference held*

**HB 2024** Cutler Act establishing the Medical Safety Automation Fund; and providing grants to implement medical safety automation systems.  
*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**HB 2025** Pickett Amends the Workers' Compensation Act providing for hybrid policies for certain business entities.  
*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**HB 2026** Pickett Amends The Insurance Company Law, in health & accident insurance, providing for group health policies to continue for period of time after termination of employment or membership in health maintenance organizations.  
*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**HB 2027** Milne Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for wellness and healthy living tax credit.  
*01-15-08 H Discussed in Press Conference*

**HB 2028** Stern Amends Health Care Cost Containment Act providing for the Health Care Cost Containment & Comparison Council; for definitions; adding powers & duties of the council; & further providing for data submission & collection & for sunset.  
*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**HB 2054** Belfanti Amends the Keystone Opportunity Zone, Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone & Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone Act providing for work performed on deteriorating property.  
*02-06-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**HB 2074** Conklin Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) imposing a surcharge in cases involving local police action.  
*11-29-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary*

**HB 2107** Miller Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) providing for special procedures pertaining to issuance of parking tickets.  
*12-07-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation*

**HB 2199** Yewcic Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of PA abolishing the school property tax on homes and farms and limiting the school property tax on commercial and recreational properties.  
*01-28-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**HB 2209** Shapiro Amends The Insurance Company Law further providing for issuance of group accident and sickness insurance.  
*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**HB 2250** Levdansky Amends the Tax Reform Code increasing the income allowance for dependents for the special tax provisions for poverty; providing for a youth employment incentive tax credit; and further providing for the new jobs tax credit.  
*06-16-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**HB 2270** Turzai Amends Tax Reform Code, in personal income, further providing for imposition; in corporate net income, further providing for definition of "taxable income"; & in gross receipts tax, further providing for imposition of tax.  
*05-28-08 H Public hearing held in committee House Republican Policy Committee*

**HB 2400** Lentz Act providing for the criteria for independent contractors in the construction industry; and imposing penalties.  
*06-09-08 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:122/N: 76)*  
*06-11-08 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Labor and Industry*

**HB 2504** Gerber Amends the Tax Reform Code, in corporate net income tax, further providing for the definition of "taxable income."  
*05-07-08 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance*

**HB 2509** Gerber Act providing for liability for false claims, treble damages, costs & civil penalties, powers of the Attorney General, for qui tam actions & adoption of legislative history of the Federal False Claims Act.  
*06-16-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**HB 2569** Hutchinson Act establishing a grant program for municipal fire and emergency services organizations; and providing for grant funding.  
*09-15-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**HB 2593** Cappelli Amends Title 74 (Transportation) & 75 (Vehicles) providing for public-private transportation projects for the development, operation & financing of PA Turnpike; conversion of Interstate 80 to a toll road; Motor License Fund.  
*06-27-08 H Today's voting meeting has been postponed (TBA), House Transportation*

**HB 2648** Eachus Act reenacting & amending the Health Care Cost Containment Act, defining "committee"; providing for PHC4 & pwr & duties, for data submission & collection & access; the est of a PHC4 Act Review Cmte & for sunset of act; providing for abatement.  
*07-03-08 H Received as amended in House and rereferred House Rules*

**HR 321** Blackwell, IV Resolution urging passage of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2007.  
*11-12-08 H Set on the Tabled Calendar*

**HR 459** Curry Resolution directing the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee to study the fiscal impact of tax-exempt properties on the finances of municipalities & school districts; to review the policies of other states.

*11-12-08 H Set on the House Calendar*

**HR 673** Lentz Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to oppose the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia metropolitan airspace redesign proposals.

*10-06-08 H Adopted (Vote: Y:201/N: 0)*

**SB 8** Wonderling Act establishing the Medical Safety Automation Fund; and providing grants to implement medical safety automation systems.

*06-10-08 H Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republicans*

**SB 246** Greenleaf Act regulating smoking in this Commonwealth; imposing powers & duties on the Department of Health and local boards of health; providing penalties; preempting local action; and making a related repeal.

*09-10-08 Discussed in joint briefing w/ Senate Public Health & House Health & Human Services Committees*

**SB 266** Erickson Act providing for a report on potential climate change impacts & econ opportunities, for DEP duty, for greenhouse gas inventory, est. the Climate Change Advisory Cmte, for greenhouse gas emissions registry & climate change action plan.

*07-09-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 70)*

**SB 379** Vance Amends the Unfair Sales Act further providing for nonapplicability.

Companions: HB 2486 (Identical)

*06-10-08 S Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republican on 6/10/08*

**SB 418** Corman Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing for the imposition of the personal income tax and authorizing the offsetting of gains and losses among the various classes of income.

*03-13-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 419** Corman Amends the Tax Reform Code further defining "taxable income" for purposes of corporate net income tax.

*03-13-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 550** White, D Amends The Insurance Company Law further providing, in health & accident insurance, for autism spectrum disorders coverage and for treatment of autism spectrum disorders; and further providing for procedures.

*06-30-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**SB 741** Corman Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing for exclusions from tax.

*04-09-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 752** Erickson Amends the Regulatory Review Act providing for acceptable data.

*06-21-07 H Discussed in IRRC hearing, Independent Regulatory Review Commission*

**SB 777** Browne Amends the Municipal Claim & Tax Lien Law changing the date from which interest is charged on delinquent tax & other municipal claims; for third-party collector duties & ordinance adoption; for locality tax & tax collection law.

*04-28-08 H Public hearing held in committee House Finance*

**SB 819** Wonderling Act regulating certain services provided by a nonresident physician.

*06-10-08 S Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republican on 6/10/08*

**SB 865** White, D Amends The Insurance Company Law providing for small group health plan rates, for coverage requirements and for marketing requirements.

*05-31-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance*

**SB 961** Eichelberger Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act further providing for earned income tax.

*06-25-07 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 49/N: 0)*

*08-18-08 H Public hearing held in committee House Finance*

**SB 968** Erickson Amends the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, providing for reduction & prevention of health care-associated infection & for long-term care nursing facilities.

*06-10-08 G Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republican on 6/10/08*

**SB 1012** Regola Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act, further providing for restrictions on taxing power.

*02-12-08 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations*

**SB 1018** McIlhinney Act imposing restrictions relating to premium rates for small employer health benefit plans; for coverage; est. fair marketing standards; for Insurance Commissioner duties; and repealing Accident & Health Filing Reform Act.

*06-30-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance*

**SB 1062** Wonderling Act providing for reimbursement to developers of brownfield sites; authorizing the Secretary of Environmental Protection to enter into redevelopment agreements; & establishing the Brownfield Site Reimbursement Fund.

*09-23-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*

**SB 1063** Earl Amends The Local Tax Enabling Act, in local tax, providing for definitions, tax power delegation, for payroll, sports facility usage fees, for rates, appeals, filing ordinances, administrative personnel, audits, collection & repeals.

*07-02-08 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 32)*

**SB 1163** O'Pake Act providing for prohibition of levy or collection of tax on homestead property by school districts, for the School District Homestead Property Tax Elimination Fund, for increase in personal income tax & Property Tax Relief Fund.

*11-19-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 1164** O'Pake Joint Resolution proposing emergency integrated amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of PA, further providing for uniformity of taxation and for tax exemptions and special tax provisions.

*11-19-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 1165** O'Pake Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Commonwealth of PA, further providing for uniformity of taxation and for tax exemptions and special tax provisions.

*11-19-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance*

**SB 1169** Dinniman Act providing for municipal volunteer emergency responder incentives.

*06-11-08 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 50/N: 0)*

*06-18-08 H Received in the House and referred to House Finance*

**SB 1182** Folmer Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for a small business health savings account tax credit.

*08-27-08 S Public hearing held in committee Senate Finance*

**SB 1184** Folmer Act authorizing employees of the Commonwealth & political subdivisions to establish health savings accounts; & providing for the requirements of health savings accounts and for tax exemption under certain circumstances.

*12-07-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance*

**SB 1188** Folmer Amends the Health Care Cost Containment Council Act further providing for the functions of the Health Care Cost Containment Council.

*12-03-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare*

**SB 1190** Folmer Act authorizing the purchase of health insurance from out-of-State insurers.

*10-03-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance*

**SB 1191** Folmer Act establishing the PA High-Risk Health Insurance Pool & the State Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Board; providing for powers & duties of the pool & board; for insurer selection, plan costs; & prescribing plan benefits.

*04-30-08 S Discussed in public hearing on Health Care Affordability, Senate Republican Policy Committee*

**SB 1229** Browne Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing, in corporate net income, for the definition of "taxable income."

*03-18-08 S Discussed in press conference by Rep. Gerber on 3/18/08*

**SB 1242** Hughes Amends the Mcare Act further providing for the Mcare Fund; for the Medical Care Availability for Pennsylvanians (MCAP) Reserve Fund; & for the Health Care Provider Retention Account and for expiration.

*01-15-08 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance*

**SB 1267** Armstrong Amends the Insurance Company Law providing for Healthy Living Committee discount.

*06-10-08 S Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republican on 6/10/08*

**SB 1304** White, D Amends the Insurance Company Law further providing for act effect on existing laws and for holding co. definitions, for mergers & acquisitions, Insurance Dept. duties & the Insurance Restructuring Receipt Account Fund; & for repeals.

*06-10-08 S Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republicans on 6/10/08*

**SB 1372** Fontana Amends the Health Care Cost Containment Act further providing for Health Care Cost Containment Council & its powers and duties, for data submission and collection, for access to council data and for sunset of act.

*09-17-08 H Passed over in committee House Insurance*

**SB 1385** Corman Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing, in corporate net income, for the definition of "taxable income."

*06-16-08 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 31/N: 19)*

*06-18-08 H Received in the House and referred to House Finance*

**SB 1387** Vance Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing for classes of income for purposes of the personal income tax.

*06-16-08 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 35/N: 15)*

*06-18-08 H Received in the House and referred to House Finance*

**SB 1388** Eichelberger Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing, in corporate net income, for the definition of "taxable income."

*06-16-08 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 31/N: 19)*

*06-18-08 H Received in the House and referred to House Finance*

**SB 1411** White, D Act establishing a system for payment or reduction in payment for preventable serious adverse events within PA; & for powers and duties of the Department of Health and the Department of State.

*06-10-08 S Discussed in HealthNET PA press conf. by Senate Republicans on 6/10/08*

**SB 1412** Pippy Amends the Keystone Opportunity Zone Acts defining "unoccupied parcel"; for extensions for unoccupied parcels, for additional keystone opportunity expansion zones & parcel substitution; for sales & use & business privilege taxes.

*07-10-08 G Approved by the Governor*

**SB 1422** White, D Amends the Insurance Company Law, in health and accident insurance, providing for group health policies to continue for period of time after termination of employment or membership in health maintenance organizations.

*10-06-08 H Rereferred to House Appropriations*



**Delaware County Chamber of Commerce**  
*Serving The Region*

---

August 7, 2008

Dear Municipal & County Elected Officials:

As you know, local government often has more impact than federal or state legislation, especially pertaining to economic vitality of a region.

Thus, on behalf of our 3200 members, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is asking you and your fellow municipal elected officials take into consideration how any ordinances or regulations adopted by your municipality may affect the business community. Items of particular interest to the Chamber Membership are:

- ◆ Working to keep taxes low with fiscally responsible spending.
- ◆ Appropriate land use regulations to allow businesses to locate and grow in Delaware County.
- ◆ Professional and informed staff available to the business community and residents
- ◆ Revitalizing business and shopping districts, including providing enough affordable parking.
- ◆ Enacting fair, not restrictive, energy and environment regulations.
- ◆ Allowing business owners and management to partake in the political process.
- ◆ Not enacting ordinances that supersede state laws on corporate reporting.
- ◆ Utilizing local business for municipal operations and activities.

A thriving economy impacts the residents, municipalities, and institutions of Delaware County, as well as all of Pennsylvania. Your support of pro-business policies will go a long way towards keeping Delaware County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

We look forward to continued interaction with you on important business issues, and I would appreciate you sharing these points with your fellow Borough Council members. Also, if possible, please read this letter at your next official meeting to enter it officially into your municipal meeting minutes. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-565-3677 or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant at 717-236-2050 ([arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (DCCC) would like to take this opportunity to inform you of our support of the current version SB1327 which reauthorizes the Pennsylvania's Healthcare Cost Containment Council (PHC4) and also the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund.

As an independent state agency, PHC4 is responsible for addressing the problem of escalating health costs in Pennsylvania, ensuring the quality of health care and increasing access for all citizens regardless of ability to pay. PHC4 is the designated state agency that provides this service by compiling and analyzing data on patient outcomes in Pennsylvania health care systems/ hospitals. This early model of healthcare data collecting has been the model that many other national organizations have built upon. The Agency publishes comparative information about health care providers for use by health care purchasers and consumers, and encourages providers to use this data to contain costs and improve the quality of care they deliver. This information is extremely valuable for purchasers and consumers of healthcare.

Mcare is a special fund within the State Treasury established, among other things, to ensure reasonable compensation for persons injured due to medical negligence. Money in the fund is used to pay claims against participating health care providers and eligible entities for losses or damages awarded in medical professional liability actions in excess of basic insurance coverage provided by primary professional liability insurance companies or self-insurers. Mcare also administers a compliance program to ensure adherence to the provisions of Act 13 and its attendant applicable regulations. This fund is very important step in keeping our doctors within Pennsylvania, ensuring quality care for our residents.

The Chamber seeks to have a voice in Pennsylvania's health care agenda and advocate for information that increases quality, customer service, and affordability of healthcare services. Thus, we encourage your support of SB1327.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050 or [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar

602 East Baltimore Pike • Media PA 19063 • 610-565-3677 • Fax: 610-565-1606  
[www.delcochamber.org](http://www.delcochamber.org)



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is taking this opportunity to remind you of our opposition to HB 904 (Freeman), which allows municipalities to freeze development.

Stopping building is bad for business in Pennsylvania. Housing is the state's third largest economic engine and ninth largest employer providing jobs to more than 230,000 families. Shutting down construction will do nothing to help achieve a higher quality of life and a brighter financial outlook for your residents. Economic forecasts are dire, and the last thing Pennsylvania needs is a bill that will send shock waves throughout an already lackluster economy.

Next, the majority of builders are small businesses, which will be significantly hurt by this legislation. As you know, small businesses are the driver for the Commonwealth's, indeed the nation's, economy and the government should not be putting up any more roadblocks that get in the way of small business. Are they not already struggling enough with problems related to healthcare costs, over-taxation and burdensome regulations?

Also, a moratorium does nothing to limit housing demand. In fact, it may exacerbate housing-supply problems and price many families, especially low-income families, out of the housing market.

In addition, development moratoriums offer no guarantee that municipalities will rewrite their comprehensive plans or change their zoning ordinances. Therefore, this bill may not bring about long-term solutions to manage growth.

Before Pennsylvania's legislature considers such an extreme move as offering broad and vague development moratorium powers to municipalities, which could potentially be devastating to our economy, it should first explore an incentive-based system that will provide a more intelligent solution.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on behalf of our 3200 members hope you take our position into consideration as the Legislature debates this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050 or [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is taking this opportunity to inform you of our support of HB 2196, which allows for a tax credit for businesses that employ disadvantaged youth.

Under this measure, if a business hires a young adult who comes from a household with income that does not exceed 235% of the federal poverty level, that business would be eligible for tax credits equal to 70% of the employment expenses incurred.

Research demonstrates that workplace experiences during the high school years yield positive benefits for participating youth. These include higher wages and employment rates later in life, reduced incidents of youth violence, and the potential for improved school performance and increased postsecondary participation.

The Delaware County Chamber believes the tax benefits of HB 2196 will help small and mid-sized businesses hire a young person at their workplace.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on behalf of our 3200 members asks you to vote in favor of HB 2196. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050 or [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar

602 East Baltimore Pike • Media PA 19063 • 610-565-3677 • Fax: 610-565-1606  
[www.delcochamber.org](http://www.delcochamber.org)



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

January 15, 2008

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

I am taking this opportunity to contact you regarding the upcoming debate on property tax restructuring legislation. The Delaware County Chamber, on behalf of our Board of Directors and Membership, has concerns regarding any bill that proposes an increased or expanded sales tax.

We are also particularly concerned with HB 1600 (Levdansky) because this bill could ultimately lead to mainly businesses facing an increase in property taxes. It is our understanding that this bill proposes changing the constitution to allow exemption of up to 100 percent of all primary residences from property taxes. As of now, the state can only reduce homeowner property taxes by 50 percent of the median value of a home in that school district or taxing authority. The bill would allow exemptions of a portion of each home's assessed value from property tax, or to exempt a dollar amount, such as the first \$100,000 of value, from property tax. School boards would then be free to raise property taxes more often with little constituent concern, since few voters in a school district own a business.

The Chamber supports a reduction in property taxes, but without shifting the full tax burden on business, especially small businesses, by unfair exemptions, taxing professional services and/or increasing the sales tax.

We ask that you take these concerns into consideration as you debate this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050 or [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vermeulen".

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

The budget season is soon upon us. Not long after you return to Harrisburg from the holiday break, Governor Rendell will make his budget address to the Commonwealth and the Legislature will begin budget hearings. On behalf of the 3200 members of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to you now to strongly encourage you to make two critical tax structure improvements a part of your FY 2008/2009 budget priorities.

Please support:

- Adoption of a 'single sales factor' for calculation of CNI liability; and
- Elimination of the 'cap' on NOL carry-forward deductions.

The merits of these two proposals are well understood and broadly embraced. It simply makes no sense to tell business owners 'if you have assets or payroll in the state you'll pay more than a competitor who only sells in Pennsylvania.' As more and more states have moved to the single sales factor, Pennsylvania - again - appears at a competitive disadvantage and the perception defeats much of the other very good economic development work done by our state government.

Similarly, Pennsylvania stands virtually alone in its treatment of Net Operating Losses. The proposal brings us to parity and competitiveness with other states so that our many other strengths can win jobs and economic expansion for the Commonwealth. The NOL carry-forward benefits cyclical commodity companies of which our state has so many; while also benefiting our young start-ups with cash flow in their years of transition to profitability.

With very strong revenue collections through the first half of this fiscal year there is no excuse for not reducing tax rates in the coming year.

Lawmakers are already moving in this direction. Representatives Mike Gerber and Mike Turzai, and Senators Pat Browne and Wayne Fontana are drafting tax competitiveness legislation. Please sign on as a co-sponsor of the legislation in your Chamber.

I would also ask you to urge Governor Rendell to support these efforts and include these proposals in his budget proposal.

This is an important competitive issue for our members. Please help create jobs and strengthen Pennsylvania's economy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-565-3677 or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050/[arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the Chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President

JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

As Pennsylvania Legislature considers legislation during the Special Session on energy, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce (DCCC) has several concerns.

First and foremost, we are opposed to the Administration's plan for a surcharge on electric bills to set up loan and grant funds for alternative energy. While the surcharge is capped at \$10,000 for commercial and industrial users, we are concerned with the cost of this surcharge on small business. Indeed, most of our membership is comprised of small businesses and we see firsthand how even the smallest expense can affect their bottom lines. In addition, we are in favor of legislation that creates tax credits, not government subsidies, designed to allow the marketplace, and not government, to direct investment into alternative energy.

DCCC also supports policies that will encourage existing plants to continue operating, and new generating plants to be built. For example, in the Mid-Atlantic region, the demand for electricity has been growing by roughly two percent per year. This moderate growth, together with the retirement of existing plants, creates a need to build new plants. If generating capacity does not keep pace with the demand for electricity, the result will be electric service that is more expensive and less reliable.

It is also important to keep cost increases in mind when developing government policies toward infrastructure due to the fact that the costs that investors face in building generating plants and other types of electric infrastructure have been rising.

Careful consideration should also be given to the impact upon generation infrastructure when environmental standards are set, and negative impacts will be minimized by following nationwide standards. Adoption of more stringent, state-specific standards should be reserved for situations where these standards are both supported by sound science and produce benefits that clearly outweigh the incremental costs. Pennsylvania has traditionally taken the approach of following nationwide standards established by the federal government in setting environmental requirements that affect electric generating plants, unless there is a compelling reason for going beyond federal requirements.

In addition, in order to maintain and improve generation infrastructure, it is important to establish open, transparent, and pro-competitive policies governing how utilities will buy power to serve non-shopping customers when the rate caps expire in a few years.

Thank you in advance for taking into consideration the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce concerns as you debate these very important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 610-565-3677 or Alex Rahn, our Government Affairs Consultant at 717-236-2050 ([arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)), if you have any questions or comments about the above or any item regarding the chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
President  
JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

As you know, Delaware County and indeed all of Southeast Pennsylvania is currently facing a transportation funding crisis. Unless a mutual acceptable solution is enacted in the legislature, the progress that has been made to provide affordable public transit in Delaware County will evaporate.

Mass transit within the county needs the state to develop an annual, dedicated funding source for transportation and public transit to support the county's current and potential growth in new jobs and new residents. It is vital to our economic growth and quality of life.

Without adequate funding, we can expect to face significant transit service cutbacks which would stunt the region's tremendous economic growth. Public transit has helped stimulate the area's economy by providing residents access to jobs and shopping. Reduced mobility would damage the business climate. The economic prosperity of the county is dependent on improving the existing transportation infrastructure and public transit.

Thus, as you debate this important issue in the coming weeks, we hope you keep the points listed above in mind. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Chamber's government affairs consultant, Alex Rahn ([717-236-2050](tel:717-236-2050)/ [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen'.

Jeff Vermeulen  
Interim President

JV/ar

602 East Baltimore Pike • Media PA 19063 • 610-565-3677 • Fax: 610-565-1606  
[www.delcochamber.org](http://www.delcochamber.org)



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

On behalf of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce's 3200 members, I am taking this opportunity to contact you regarding the Data Quality Act.

State laws should be based on current scientific facts with full public disclosure, and far too often, state agencies issue regulations they allege are based on sound science and quality data. Yet there is no system in place for a close examination of the scientific basis of those regulations. The result is a bureaucratic process of imposing regulations constraining Pennsylvania residents and businesses that offers no recourse for challenging their validity.

We need to bring more openness to state government. If the scientific underpinnings of regulations are truly accurate, then they should stand up during close public scrutiny. Conversely, if a regulation is based on bad science or outdated facts, it is inherently flawed and should be revamped. In the quest for good government, it just makes sense for the commonwealth to ensure the science and data supporting its rules and regulations are sound.

Taking these points into consideration, the Pennsylvania Data Quality Act will bring much needed transparency to our state regulatory process. This legislation will let any person or organization challenge the scientific basis of a regulation, requiring that state agencies prove the reasonableness of the research on which a regulation is based.

Pennsylvania's Data Quality Act will provide important protection by making our regulations more responsive to scientific advances. Think for a moment about all of the scientific and technological advances made by our society during the past twenty years. Many of these advances offer efficiencies, could save time, and reduce costs. Other advances offer a better scientific understanding on a range of issues, improving our knowledge of how things work.

Yet some current state regulations simply do not take into account the tremendous technological and scientific advances that have taken place recently. Put on the books years ago, some of these regulations are no longer current, requiring that old and dated approaches be used to ensure compliance. The result can often mean increased costs for businesses, resulting in inferior products or services for consumers at increased costs. Under the proposed Data Quality Act, such outdated regulations could be challenged, which would prompt state agencies to issue more current regulations based on the latest sound science.

The Data Quality Act will bring our state regulations into the 21st century. It will make the regulatory process more transparent and open to the public while ensuring that state regulations are based on current scientific fact.

Thus, I hope you support this bill during this legislative session. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Chamber's Government Affairs Consultant (717-236-2050/ [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)) if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Vermeulen', written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Vermeulen  
Executive Vice President

JV/ar



**Delaware County Chamber of Commerce**  
*Serving The Region*

---

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Delaware County Legislative Delegation:

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for over 3,000 businesses, both large and small in the Delaware County. Our main goal is to enhance economic opportunity and quality of life in our region.

A few weeks ago, the Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing to discuss Governor Rendell's idea to tax oil company profits. Committee members heard from the Secretary of Revenue followed by those who work in the oil industry. It quickly became apparent in the hearing that nearly 274 businesses in Pennsylvania would be taxed, not just the so called "oil giants." Companies in other lines of business that explore, produce, refine or deliver the oil would have the gross profits tax applied to them as well.

Our Chamber strongly feels that if proposed legislation is passed, the Delaware County would be hit hard economically. We have had several members who would fall under this new gross profits tax complain to us about Governor Rendell's proposal. This proposed tax must be stopped in its tracks.

In addition, small businesses are going to feel the impact of this tax as well. Every one of the 274 companies who fall under the definition of "oil companies" will pass this tax along to the consumer. Our Chamber strongly feels that it is going to be a serious detriment to small businesses in this region that rely on cars and trucks to carry products to and from destination points in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Small businesses within our region cannot afford another serious increase in gas prices. As gas prices continually rise, businesses will struggle to meet the demands of their customer base.

The economic impact of this proposed tax will spread far beyond the "oil giants." Our Chamber strongly recommends that this tax not go any further than as "proposed" legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vermeulen".

Jeff Vermeulen  
Executive Vice President

JV/ar



Delaware County Chamber of Commerce  
*Serving The Region*

---

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dear Senator Specter, Senator Casey and Congressman Sestak:

I am taking this opportunity to contact you to urge you to oppose the "Employee Free Choice Act."

As you know, a secret ballot election overseen by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is the most common current method for determining whether or not employees want to form a union. This process protects the interests of both the employee and employer by ensuring that both sides have an opportunity to make their case. In addition, a secret ballot allows employees to make a decision free of coercion and intimidation from both the union organizers and their employer. The current system keeps the playing field fair and the proposed changes will tilt the balance towards union organizers.

Most concerning to the Delaware County Chamber is this bill has the potential to expose more small businesses to union campaigns, and also make them more vulnerable to union organizing tactics. According to the US Chamber of Commerce, of the 2,649 union representation elections conducted by the NLRB in 2005, more than 20 percent involved bargaining units of fewer than 10 employees and a full 70 percent involved bargaining units of fewer than 50 employees. Moreover, current procedures allow for most elections to be held within 56 days. A quick and fair process helps small businesses that can not afford expensive drawn out stalling techniques that this bill will allow for union organizers.

As you can see, the card check bill would allow unions to target even smaller companies, and as you know small businesses are the back bone of the economy.

For these reasons, please oppose the "Employee Free Choice Act" and preserve secret ballot elections for the purposes of establishing unions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Vermeulen".

Jeff Vermeulen  
Executive Vice President

JV/ar

**2007/2008 Voting Record Percentages  
Summary**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Votes of Interest</b>	<b>Supported Chamber's Position</b>	<b>Voting %</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>PA HOUSE</b>				
<b>Adolph</b>	8	5	<b>63%</b>	
<b>Barrar</b>	8	6	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Civera</b>	8	6	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Killion</b>	8	8	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Kirkland</b>	8	4	<b>50%</b>	
<b>Lentz</b>	8	4	<b>50%</b>	
<b>Micozzie</b>	8	5	<b>63%</b>	
<b>Raymond</b>	8	6	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Vitali</b>	8	4	<b>50%</b>	
<b>PA SENATE</b>				
<b>Erickson</b>	10	10	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Pileggi</b>	10	9	<b>90%</b>	
<b>Williams A</b>	9	5	<b>56%</b>	excused for 1 vote
<b>Williams C</b>	9	6	<b>67%</b>	excused for 1 vote







## Delaware County Chamber of Commerce *Serving The Region*

---

### **2007/2008 Government Affairs Mission Statement & Legislative Agenda**

#### **Mission Statement**

**The mission of the Government Affairs Committee is to promote the growth and development of the regional business community through: the advocacy of positive and permanent business friendly government laws and regulations; effective communication with our elected officials; and, development of strategic partnerships to accomplish these objectives.**

The businesses that comprise our membership face numerous obstacles; such as rapidly rising health-care costs, an overly burdensome tax structure, a costly legal environment, and unfair business practices.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government Affairs Committee has created our Legislative Agenda for 2007 in an effort to both educate the full Chamber Membership as well as the Legislative Delegation of issues of our agenda.

#### **Supports Tort Reform Legislation and Lawsuit Abuse Restrictions**

Costly frivolous lawsuits and litigation continue to bear responsibility for stunting the Commonwealth's economic growth. Fairness, common sense and personal responsibility need to be returned as an integral part of our courts by continuing to reform our antiquated legal system.

Thus, the Chamber supports Tort Reform Legislation that would put caps on non economic damages, would limit the recovery of punitive damages, would reform Joint and Several Liability and would prevent frivolous lawsuits. Enacting meaningful tort reform would greatly reduce the costs that businesses incur in the State of Pennsylvania, namely skyrocketing health insurance premiums for employees. Meaningful tort reform would contribute to a better quality of life for all residents, due to the fact that our small business owners and doctors are leaving the Commonwealth due to frivolous lawsuits, particularly here in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

#### **Health Care Reform**

Making insurance more affordable and accessible to small businesses will encourage entrepreneurs to expand their workforce and benefits packages; The Chamber supports small business group reform, small business health plans, Health Savings Accounts and encourages any legislation that creates competition among health insurance companies and health care providers.

However, the Chamber insists that health plans must not shift a disproportionate share of the funding for the cost of healthcare to the business community and in an effort to cut budgetary costs, the state must not unfairly target health care providers by cutting Medicaid funding. These cuts will have a negative impact on our citizens, hospitals, businesses and the overall economy of the region. This is due to the fact the state's Medicaid budget impacts our community because Medicaid payments reimburse hospitals for care to our most vulnerable citizens and help the hospitals employ staff, and purchase goods and services, which generate state and local taxes, and stimulate the economy. The cuts do not provide savings; rather they represent a shift in cost burdens.

The organization also opposes universal health care, unless sufficient evidence exists demonstrating that the benefits of the mandate clearly outweigh its costs.

In addition, the Chamber is eagerly awaiting details on Governor Rendell's plan to address cost, quality and access issues in the state's health care system. In the meantime, the Chamber has numerous concerns such as the "fair share" tax on employers and how the plan will be administered. We look forward to working with the Administration and the Legislature to ensure that this plan does not negatively affect the business community instead of helping them.

## **Supports a Change in the Business Taxing Structure, ending Unfair Business Practices and enacting reform to Worker and Unemployment Compensation**

Pennsylvania's tax structure contains some of the highest rates and most restrictive provisions in the country, namely corporate tax laws that are uncompetitive when compared to the rest of the nation. Across-the-board reforms and reductions in business taxes are necessary in order to stimulate economic development. Businesses oppose the adoption of unfair and random regulation enforcement, burdensome reporting requirements, exorbitant fees and impossible regulations.

With that in mind, the Chamber advocates the elimination of the death tax, the reduction of the corporate net income tax (CNIT) rate and the phase out of the capital stock and franchise tax (CSFT), both of which are the second highest in the 50 states.

Next, the Chamber supports reforms to the workers' compensation system and unemployment compensation program that would lower costs and lessen the burden on employers.

Finally, the Chamber is opposed to environmental and energy laws and regulations that are not based on sound science. Regulations and laws should be cost-effective, technologically feasible and flexible;

## **Transportation Funding and Improvements**

Mass transit, as well as Pennsylvania's state highway and bridge systems are in a financial crisis, which if not solved will have a negative effect on the economy of Pennsylvania. Thus, the Chamber supports a transportation and infrastructure system that is modern, safe and efficient in order to facilitate the free flow of goods and commerce and the mobility of its citizens for business and recreational activities.

---

*The Legislative landscape is constantly changing. Legislation cited above may not have taken sufficient form to understand what is being proposed and consequently the Chamber's positions would adjust accordingly.*

On July 4<sup>th</sup> the 2008/09 state [budget](#) was passed. It contains total state spending of \$28.26 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion or 3.98% from 2007/08. The 2007/08 fiscal year ended with a General Fund surplus of approximately \$582.8 million. The three Departments receiving the largest increase in state funds were the Department of Public Welfare (\$633.5million), the Department of Education (\$318.5million), and the Department of Corrections (\$39.5million).

In addition, \$350 million of bond [funds](#) was passed to repair structurally deficient bridges statewide, and for rail and airport improvements. Funds will be immediately directed to 411 bridges ([list](#)). The legislation authorizes an increase in the Rail Transportation Assistance Program by \$10 million to \$30 million and includes \$3 million for the preservation of railroad bridges. The bill also doubles the aviation grant program to \$10 million from \$5 million and will underwrite more airfield safety improvements, hangar construction and terminal improvements.

The Legislature and the Governor also agreed on a \$650 million [energy package](#) as part of the budget. The cost to the state would be \$500 million, which will be borrowed against revenue from the state's tax on electric utility gross receipts. The remaining amount would come from the state's general tax revenues over the next eight years. \$285 million of the fund is directed to businesses for research and development of alternative energies and fuels. Also, smaller coal-fired power plants would receive \$25 million to help them meet stricter pollution standards.

Unfortunately, business tax reforms needed to make the state more competitive were not part of this year's budget. Despite a strong advocacy effort by the Delaware County Chamber as part of the [CompetePA Coalition](#) comprised of 120 other Chambers and businesses, the creation of a single sales factor apportionment formula for the CNI tax will not take place, the cap on net operating-loss carry-forwards will not be eliminated and the corporate net income tax (CNI) at 9.99 percent will remain the second highest rate in the country.

Two bills to change the corporate tax structure did pass the Senate by 31-19 votes, but both of these bills stalled in House Finance Committee. If taken up in the future –

- ◆ [SB 1385](#) raises caps on operating loss carryovers on income taxes and allows companies with prior-year losses to write off taxes on present-year income. Currently, the cap is \$3 million or 12.5% of taxable present-year income. This bill proposes to change that to \$5 million or 25% of taxable income.
- ◆ [SB 1388](#) changes the formula used to calculate corporate net income taxes for companies with a presence in several states. The change would place less of a burden on in-state property and payroll expenses, while increasing the portion derived from in-state sales.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on behalf of its 3200 members would like to thank Senators Dominic Pileggi and Ted Erickson for voting in favor of Senate Bills 1385 and 1388 and ask our House Delegation Members to support passage of these important pieces of legislation.

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chamber of commerce's.*

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is a member of SEPAC, the political action committee for a number of chamber of commerces located in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Chamber's Government Affairs Committee and staff do an excellent job of developing a policy agenda and delivering that message to the state legislative delegation and other key decision makers. However, campaign contributions can make significant difference in elections, and gives the financial help that pro-business candidates need to survive during tough political campaigns.

Thus, your contribution to SEPAC will work to make sure that pro-jobs, pro-growth legislators are there to hear the Chamber's message by targeting contributions to those elected officials who best meet the business communities' legislative goals. With anti-business forces spending millions of dollars each election supporting their candidates and their agenda, the future of business in this region, and its ability to grow and maintain the local economy is at stake.

The Board of Directors for SEPAC recently met and has developed an aggressive fundraising plan for the 2008 election cycle to benefit our pro-business candidates. Please keep an eye out for upcoming SEPAC events and your support of SEPAC is critical to creating a business-friendly environment within the region.

Please contact me (717-236 2050/ [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com)) if you would like to contribute to SEPAC or need more information.

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chambers of commerce*

## **Access to Basic Care Plan of Concern to the Business Community**

In March the Pennsylvania House of Representatives quickly advanced and passed the Pennsylvania Access to Basic Care (ABC) plan. This program offers subsidized coverage to adults earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level, which is about \$35,200 a year for a three-member family. The ABC plan is a tailored version of Governor Rendell's Cover All Pennsylvania's proposal, and the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see that the new version does not have the previously proposed 3% payroll tax, which would have been devastating to small businesses.

However, the Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the ABC plan does not address the real factors behind increasing healthcare costs within the Commonwealth. Indeed, addressing the cost drivers by passing legislation for small business group reform, small business health plans, and legislation that fosters competition among health insurance companies will make insurance more affordable and accessible to small businesses and encourage entrepreneurs to expand their benefits packages.

Also of concern is the amount of funding needed for the program, which the Williamsport Sun Gazette reported would cost \$1.1 billion by 2013 to cover only 273,000 of the 766,000 uninsured Pennsylvanians. The funding would come from Medicaid, tobacco settlement money and the MCare program which helps doctors pay their malpractice insurance costs. In fact, the bill has been linked to the continuation of MCare abatements for doctors, and Governor Rendell has stated that he will not approve the abatements until an agreement is reached to extend coverage to the uninsured.

The ABC plan has now been sent to the Senate, but Senate leaders have stated that the MCare abatement fund should not be tied to any other plan, and have called on the House to consider legislation that would extend the MCare abatement program for one year. In the meantime, healthcare providers within Pennsylvania will have to pay their full MCARE premiums for the first time in five years. According to the Pennsylvania Medical Society and Capitolwire, those rates can be as low as \$1,500 for a rural primary care doctor and as high as \$37,000 for a Philadelphia area neurosurgeon.

The Delaware County Chamber of Commerce on behalf of its 3200 members would like to thank Representatives Mario Civera and Steve Barrar and Tom Killion (the latter two voted against the amendment attaching ABC to the MCare reauthorization and the final bill) for voting in opposition to the ABC Plan and hope that members of the Delaware County Senate delegation follows their example.

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chambers of commerce*

## **Business Community Advocacy Helps Remove Detrimental Payroll Tax**

Although the state House has recessed until January before voting on a bill to fund Governor Rendell's Cover All Pennsylvanian's plan, the Delaware County Chamber is excited that the 3 percent payroll tax part of the plan has been abandoned. Governor Rendell is seeking alternative funding options for his health-care plan, and has proposed to finance the plan from a surplus in MCARE, a fund to reduce doctors and hospital's medical malpractice costs.

Before recessing the House was debating an amended version of a bill that the Senate approved earlier this month that would continue the state MCARE program, which was set to expire at the end of the year. However, the Morning Call of Allentown [reports](#) that Governor Ed Rendell Tuesday is prepared to waive MCARE assessments on doctors until about April, if lawmakers commit to a healthcare reform bill by Feb. 12. Rendell said assessments would be sent starting Jan. 1, but payments would be waived for three months.

A bipartisan group of lawmakers are going to meet on the new funding proposal over the next several weeks.

While the Chamber has some concerns about using the MCARE fund, we are excited that the 3% payroll tax is no longer an option. The Chamber has advocated to the Administration and Legislature our opposition to the 3% payroll tax since it was first proposed earlier this year. Our advocacy included constant communication with the Delaware County Legislative Delegation, the Administration and other key decision makers. In fact, Jeff Vermeulen, President of the Chamber, was one the first business leaders to testify against the tax at a hearing hosted by Representative Micozzie.

This tax would have been devastating to the members of the Delaware County Chamber, especially small businesses. The plan was originally promoted as a tax assessed only on companies not providing employees with health-care coverage. However, it soon became clear that all employers within the state, regardless if they offer health insurance to their employees or not, would have been assessed a 3 percent tax on their total payroll. Employers who submit the proper documentation to the state and then who are judged as "fair & equitable" by a yet to be determined bureaucracy may have eventually receive a deduction of 3 percent, but it had not been decided by the Administration when companies will receive their money back. Floating three percent of payroll for a small business would have been financially crippling, and it is hard to understand the fairness in punishing companies that already provide healthcare coverage. Indeed, the tax could have produced the opposite effect of what it was meant to achieve because employers could have opted to drop coverage and enroll in the less expensive state plan, exacerbating the number of uninsured individuals in the Commonwealth, as a waiting list already exists for the current AdultBasic program.

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chamber of commerce's.*

## Death Tax

One of the ongoing legislative priorities for the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce is the permanent repeal of the death tax. Also known as the estate tax, the death tax is a burdensome penalty that can devastate small and family owned businesses. Small business owners received a temporary reprieve from the death tax with the passage of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 in the US Congress. A provision of that law phased-in the repeal of the tax – which, at the time, reached as high as 60 percent on some estates – over a 10-year period.

However, US Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D - Montana) said earlier this month that the death tax will not be completely repealed because there is not enough support in Congress to pass it. That tax exempts up to \$2 million this year and next, a level which rises to \$3.5 million in 2009. The estate tax would then be repealed for 2010. However, unless Congress acts in 2011 the death tax returns, with an exemption cap of just \$1 million, and a top tax rate of 55 percent. An exemption of just \$1 million would obviously be catastrophic for small businesses in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

Instead of working on building support to completely repeal the death tax, Baucus is already laying the ground work for an “acceptable compromise.” Senator Baucus even had Warren Buffet testify before the Finance Committee about Buffet’s ideas on maintaining the estate tax. During his testimony, Buffet advocated for a compromise on the death tax, instead of complete elimination. Buffett said that in the last 20 years, tax laws have allowed the “superrich” to become richer. Congressional leaders are now likely to use Mr. Buffett’s testimony to further their argument that a repeal of the estate tax amounts to a windfall for a few wealthy families. However, the American Family Business Institute reports that Mr. Buffett had been able to purchase his stakes in Dairy Queen, Jordan's, the Buffalo News, R.C. Wiley Home Furnishings and other family-owned companies thanks in part to the death tax. Stephen Moore from the Wall Street Journal wrote on their editorial blog that, “There's little question that a death tax rate as high as 55% has allowed vulture capitalists to snatch up family-owned companies at lower prices. Mr. Buffett is widely reported to be sitting on \$40 billion of cash right now. A higher death tax would have families reluctantly lining up to sell to him.”

While supporters of the death tax have portrayed the repeal as a giveaway to the rich, they ignore the fact that many small business owners will be hard hit if the death tax exemptions drops down to the \$1,000,000 mark. Opponents of the death tax have worked to demonstrate that the tax is really an issue of fairness. Why, they ask, should a business be hit with a huge penalty upon the death of its owner, especially after those assets have already been taxed through a range of business and other federal taxes?

If you would like contact information for your federal representatives to voice your support for the elimination of the death tax please contact the Chamber at 610-565-3677 or Alex Rahn, Government Relations Consultant at [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com).

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chamber of commerce's*

## 2007 Budget Update

The budget process started off reasonably well this year and in a surprise show of strength and solidarity by House Democrats, the usual “fake budget” process that traditionally takes place in May, with many members offering floor amendments to the budget on a variety of line items was dispensed with. All members were asked to withdraw their amendments, and 245 of the 246 amendments they had been prepared to debate were removed. The one amendment allowed was Republican Appropriations Committee Chairman Mario Civera’s comprehensive amendment. The vote on Rep. Mario Civera’s amendment, that would have cut many of the Governor's proposals for new programs and limited spending to the rate of inflation, failed by six votes (96-102). After much debate the final bill passed the House by, 102-97 and moved to the Senate for its consideration and amendment.

The Senate adopted several amendments that capped spending, and the budget passed the Senate 49-1, with only Senator Anthony Williams voting in the negative. The Senate version, which trims \$292 million from Gov. Ed Rendell’s \$27.3 billion spending then went back to the House.

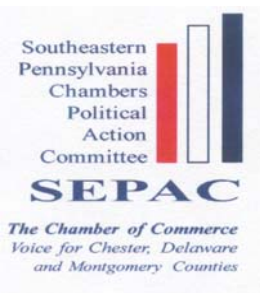
Budget negotiations then stalled. A deal came on the ninth day after June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, and after Governor Rendell furloughed nearly 25,000 state workers for one day. The agreement holds the line on seven new and/or expanded business taxes to the tune of \$1.2 billion proposed by the Rendell Administration. This includes Rendell's proposed \$850 million alternative energy fund, which required one of the tax increases in the form of a surcharge on electricity consumers. Instead, the legislature will consider a \$60 million-a-year version without a tax increase this fall.

The Chamber of Commerce appreciates the delegation’s leadership in ensuring that these business tax increases were not implemented. The Chamber is also excited to see that the scheduled phase out of the Capital Stock and Franchise tax remains without interruption, and that the efforts of some lawmakers to implement mandatory unitary combined reporting were defeated.

Lawmakers did agree too many of Governor Rendell’s budget priorities, such as \$200 million in new or increased funding for pre-kindergarten, high school laptop computers, \$450 million for highway infrastructure, and \$300 million for mass transit. The Chamber salutes Governor Rendell and the legislature for funding mass transit because it is vital to the economic growth and quality of life for our region. The increase is more than some lawmakers had wanted, but still represent a smaller increase in the growth of government spending than previous state budgets.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 717-236-2050 or [arahn@wannerassoc.com](mailto:arahn@wannerassoc.com) if you would like more details regarding the budget.

*Alex Rahn of Wanner Associates ([www.wannerassoc.com](http://www.wannerassoc.com)) serves as the Government Affairs Consultant and Lobbyist for the Delaware County, Main Line, Tri County Area and the Greater West Chester chamber of commerce’s.*



**Contact:** Ken Russell 717-236-2050  
**Harrisburg, Pa. – October 22, 2008**

## **SEPAC Endorses Candidates for 2008 General Election**

The Board of Directors for SEPAC, the Political Action Committee comprised of representatives from multiple chambers of commerce in Southeast Pennsylvania, announced the endorsements listed below for the 2008 General Election. Endorsements are based on the candidate's voting records and positions on business issues.

“The candidates endorsed by SEPAC recognize the needs of businesses in Southeast PA and across the Commonwealth. They understand what is required to improve the business climate in Pennsylvania, including addressing increasing healthcare costs, the lowering of business taxes, putting an end to overreaching business regulations and promoting sound energy policies,” said Ken Russell, Board Chairman.

Russell continued, “SEPAC is a Political Action Committee comprised of Members from the Delaware County, Main Line and TriCounty Area Chambers of Commerce. These three chambers of commerce represent over 5,000 members across 4 counties, and are the premier business advocacy organizations within Southeastern Pennsylvania. Our Board feels a thriving economy impacts the residents, municipalities, and institutions of the area, as well as all of Pennsylvania. Support of pro-business policies will go a long way towards keeping Southeastern Pennsylvania a great place to live, work, and raise a family.”

### **ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL ELECTION 2008**

***William Adolph (R)***, 165th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Steven Barrar (R)***, 160th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Guy Ciarrocchi (R)***, 157th District – Candidate for State House of Representatives

***Mario Civera (R)***, 164th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Michael Gerber (D)***, 148th District - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Richard Gokey (R)***, 130th District – Candidate for State House of Representatives

***Timothy Hennessey (R)***, 26th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Thomas Killion (R)***, 168th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Lynn Lechter (R)***, 149th District – Candidate for State House of Representatives

***Bob Mensch (R)***, 147th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Nicholas Miccarelli (R)***, 162nd District - - Candidate for State House of Representatives

***Nicholas Micozzie (R)***, 163rd District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Duane Milne (R)***, 167th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Thomas Quigley (R)***, 160th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Douglas Reichley (R)***, 134th District - - Incumbent, State House of Representatives

***Michael O'Pake (D)***, 11th District - - Incumbent, State Senate

***Dominic Pileggi (R)***, 9th District - - Incumbent, State Senate

**XXXXX**

**SEPAC**

908 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 – 717-236-2050