



State Legislative Agenda 2014

Members of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce have identified the following issues, policies and appropriations as fundamental to Alabama's progress because they will help to build additional jobs and a more positive business climate in the Mobile area.

Legislative Action

Seek amendments to enhance current incentives in order to allow for the sale of state tax credits for the preservation and renovation of historic buildings.

In order to make Alabama more competitive with other Southern states, support economic development legislation that includes an incentive structure based on job creation and the investment of capital; and when appropriate, a sales tax exemption for the purchase of machinery.

In order to protect an employer's right to provide a safe workplace, oppose any legislation that would keep an employer from restricting unauthorized firearm possession on company property.

In order to access increased federal funds for medical care of the elderly, support legislation that allows Programs for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to contribute to the Alabama Healthcare Trust fund.

Enact the Alabama Taxpayers' Bill of Rights II, an update and expansion of the original landmark legislation enacted in 1992, which extends the appeal deadlines for taxpayers.

Support legislation that creates the Alabama Tax Appeals Commission as an independent state tax agency to oversee the tax appeals process and take the tax appeals decision authority away from the taxing agency, the Alabama Department of Revenue.

In order to enhance k-12 preparedness and ultimate success of students reaching accountability measures, support increased funding for pre-kindergarten educational programs in Alabama.

Support appropriate levels of funding in the FY Education Budget to allow for the implementation of the Alabama Board of Education's PLAN 2020, along with proven education initiatives such as Alabama Reading Initiative, Alabama Math Science Technology Initiative, the Career/Technical Education Initiative and dual-enrollment programs.

In order to enhance the competitiveness of local research institutions, provide support and assistance in passing legislation to provide for a Research and Development income tax credit parallel to the federal R&D credit, with an extra incentive if a qualified research institution performs the research.

Support or assist in the enactment of legislation that encourages investment in early stage, innovative, wealth and job creating businesses that will remain headquartered, along with the majority of its workforce, in the state of Alabama.

Critical Issues

To relieve growing congestion, advocate for final site selection and funding of the proposed I-10 Mobile River bridge and Bayway widening project from the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

To support growing workforce needs, maintain funding levels that allow for education and job training programs that prepare current and future workers for technical positions in Alabama businesses and industries; and oppose the repeal of College and Career Ready Standards.

Establish state-guaranteed, zero-interest small business loans available immediately following a federally-declared natural disaster, such as a hurricane, flood or tornado, to bridge the time until insurance claims are paid and other disaster relief funds or financial assistance can be acquired.

Seek legislation to encourage even greater reforms in property insurance to ensure the availability of market-driven property insurance with flood and wind coverage at competitive pricing so that individuals and businesses can find reasonable and available protection for their homes and businesses.

Encourage the Governor to explore existing and future options for funding Medicaid expansion in Alabama.

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