



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2025



The Mobile Chamber has served as the Mobile area's leading business advocate for 189 years. Mobile connects Alabama to the world, and the Chamber advocates for legislation that grows Mobile and Alabama's influence in the region, across the country and around the world.

2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA KEY PRIORITIES:

Bridging Education and Industry: Transforming Workforce Development in Alabama

Expansion of the TEAMS Act to CTE Teachers aims to extend the benefits of the TEAMS Act to include Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators. This expansion specifically targets CTE teachers who specialize in key sectors and enablers identified under the Catalysts framework, such as chemical manufacturing, forestry and wood products, agriculture and food production, biosciences, technology, defense, mobility, metal and advanced materials, logistics and distribution, and business services. Historically, these teaching positions are some of the most challenging to staff because skilled professionals in these fields can earn significantly more working in their respective industries than on an entry-level teacher salary. By offering competitive compensation and benefits to CTE educators under the TEAMS Act, the state can attract professionals with the technical expertise necessary to align education with workforce development goals to prepare students for high-demand careers, strengthen critical industries and secure Alabama's competitiveness in a rapidly evolving economy.

The proposed **joint-venue Career Technical Education (CTE) campus**, a collaboration among Bishop State Community College, Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS), and the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF), represents a transformative investment in workforce development. As a new charter school focused on the maritime and advanced manufacturing industries for grades 6–12, this state-of-the-art facility will provide students with hands-on training and industry-aligned curricula to equip them with critical skills for high-demand, high-wage careers. The Mobile Chamber supports a \$30 million investment for a regional advanced manufacturing and maritime training academy to create cutting-edge learning environments, purchase industry-grade equipment, and develop programs aligned with regional economic needs to ensure a robust pipeline of skilled talent to meet the challenges of the current and future workforce.

Expanding Access to Workforce Housing: A Critical Investment in Communities

Definition Changing AMI Percentage seeks to broaden the definition of "low or moderate income person or family" to include individuals or families earning up to 140% of the area's average median income (AMI), an increase from the current threshold of 100%. This adjustment addresses the pressing need for workforce housing by capturing those who are essential to the local economy but are often excluded from existing housing programs. Teachers, first responders and healthcare workers, for example, frequently struggle with housing affordability due to rising market rates, despite their critical contributions to the community. By redefining eligibility, counties and municipalities will gain greater flexibility to address housing challenges and support a more inclusive approach to workforce housing.

Complementing this effort, the **Workforce Housing Tax Credit pilot program** incentivizes private sector investment in workforce housing projects. Modeled after the successful Growing Alabama Tax Credit, this initiative encourages businesses and individuals to invest in housing development through state tax credits. The program prioritizes areas with acute housing shortages, particularly for workers in essential sectors like education, healthcare, manufacturing and public safety. By streamlining partnerships between local governments and private developers, this bill aims to accelerate the availability of affordable housing, strengthen local economies and ensure communities have the infrastructure necessary to support their workforce. Together, these bills represent a strategic and innovative approach to making housing more accessible, sustainable and aligned with the needs of those who drive our economy forward.

To learn about these
key priorities and
more, scan here.



Feel free to reach out to our Government Affairs team at the Mobile Chamber.



NANCY HEWSTON

Vice President, Communications & Advocacy
(703) 585-8796
nhewston@mobilechamber.com



LAYTON LITTLE

Director of Government Affairs
(662) 418-5431
llittle@mobilechamber.com

KEEPING ALABAMA OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Mobile Chamber continues to advocate for the protection of businesses, both large and small, from legislation that would open the door to frivolous lawsuits.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for legislation that protects existing business infrastructure and creates an attractive environment for economic development, ensuring Alabama is widely known as a business-friendly state.

The Mobile Chamber supports the funding and construction of the proposed I-10 Mobile River Bridge and partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Alabama Department of Transportation to actively seek construction funding through federal grants and other sources.

The Mobile Chamber supports all efforts to increase the \$20 million annual cap and return the qualifying age from 75 years to 60 years for certified historic structures. For the Alabama historic tax credit program, the program is a proven incentive for bringing more investment capital into projects that positively impact job creation and sustained economic activity and is in such demand that it is waitlisted with projects across the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports an increase in the film and music industry in the State of Alabama by advocating for raising the incentive cap.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for continued funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Civil Works program which supports the deepening and widening and the annual operations and maintenance dredging of the Mobile Ship Channel; and maintain the necessary funding for the operation and maintenance of Alabama's commerce waterways, including the deepening of the Bayou la Batre and Coden ship channels.

The Mobile Chamber supports a statewide-vote on gaming, which includes, but is not limited to an education lottery; sportsbook, casino-style games at designated locations; a regulatory body; and a compact with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The Mobile Chamber supports the fiscal year 2025 state supplemental funding request for the Dauphin Island Sea Lab to construct a new dormitory designed to house in-residence graduate students displaced from on-campus housing by Hurricane Sally, increase housing for summer-term undergraduates, allow diversification of academic programs, and support course requirements of marine science degrees. In addition, Dauphin Island Sea Lab also seeks assistance with funding to replace the 70-year-old Discovery Hall Program Classroom building that serves some 10,000 K-12 students, teachers, and chaperones along with remote delivery of educational programs to some 3,500 students across the State of Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber supports and encourages ongoing conversations between the City of Mobile and freight/passenger rail entities to limit trains from obstructing any public street, road or highway crossing-at-grade within a Class 2 municipality in Mobile County.

The Mobile Chamber supports reforms of Alabama's tort laws and other civil justice reforms to strike an appropriate balance between protecting consumer and business interests, building a stronger business climate, and creating a fairer civil justice system for all.

The Mobile Chamber supports a reduced redemption period allowing local governments or land banks to acquire tax-delinquent properties not purchased, streamlining the process for community development initiatives.

The Mobile Chamber supports \$1 million in funding to support the re-establishment and operation of passenger rail service between Mobile and New Orleans, enhancing regional connectivity and economic development.

The Mobile Chamber supports state and federal investment in the Alabama Port Authority for capital improvement projects that foster continued growth at the Port of Mobile and throughout the State of Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber supports a fair, open and transparent competitive bidding process that ensures accountability, prevents favoritism and fosters a level playing field for all businesses seeking public contracts.

TRAINING & ADVANCING ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE

The Mobile Chamber supports expanding the TEAMS Act to include Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in Alabama's key industries— Mobility, Agricultural Products/Food Production, Chemical Manufacturing, Defense, Forestry and Wood, Bioscience, Healthcare, Technology, and Metal/Advanced Materials. This expansion addresses critical workforce shortages by offering CTE educators salary enhancements and professional development opportunities, aligning their skills with industry demands. By attracting and retaining skilled teachers in these sectors, Alabama can better prepare students for high-demand jobs, supporting economic growth and enhancing the state's overall workforce readiness.

The Mobile Chamber supports a \$30-million investment in the south Alabama workforce by constructing a regional advanced manufacturing and maritime training academy, serving grades 6–12 with dual enrollment, and developed by the Mobile Chamber's Workforce Alliance.

The Mobile Chamber supports demand-driven strategic workforce training initiatives in south Alabama's key economic growth sectors, including aerospace, maritime, advanced manufacturing, tourism, healthcare and supply chain.

The Mobile Chamber supports working to meet the needs for all citizens in our region by advocating for reentry and job skills training programs for those currently in correctional facilities serving sentences for non-violent crimes. Promote and support apprenticeship and work-based learning opportunities in partnership with key industry sector employers and community colleges in southwest Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for the investment in essential support services, including public transportation and childcare, the two most significant barriers to employment and training.

The Mobile Chamber promotes and supports scholarships and other funding opportunities to prepare existing and prospective students to earn credentials through Bishop State Community College's state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center, preparing individuals to enter high-demand, high-wage manufacturing occupations.

The Mobile Chamber supports increased funding for dual enrollment programs for high school students, rapid skill training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, for-credit certificates, degree programs and adult education programs.

The Mobile Chamber supports and promotes the integration of STEM curriculum and career exploration for K-12 students, and aviation training programs such as FlightPath9, Bishop State's aviation manufacturing partnership with Airbus, and the Impact Program with AM/NS Calvert.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional access to public higher education for individuals without a social security number in Alabama to cultivate a diverse and skilled workforce and create an opportunity for all aspiring learners.

The Mobile Chamber supports additional funding to renovate and modernize Mobile County's high school career-tech centers, which is imperative to ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, fostering a conducive learning environment in line with industry standards, better equipping students with the practical skills needed to excel in a rapidly changing job market and contributing to the long-term economic development of this region.

The Mobile Chamber supports the fiscal year 2026 state budget appropriation for the Alabama School of Math and Science to enhance the facilities, equipment and educational offerings at the state's only 100-percent public and 100-percent residential school. The school, which was recently ranked "#1 Best Public High School in Alabama" by Niche, is exceeding state averages—including a 100-percent graduation rate and an average ACT score of 30—with 75 percent of its graduates' attending college in the state and 65 percent working in the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation that amends Alabama's Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) to adjust tax revenue distribution for municipalities impacted by population changes due to annexations, de-annexations, or incorporations.

The Mobile Chamber supports a revision to the SSUT to ensure online purchases of locally sourced goods (i.e. food and groceries) are taxed under local sales tax rates, instead of the standard statewide 8% for online sales.

MADE IN MOBILE, FOR AMERICA & THE WORLD

The Mobile Chamber supports the continued expansion of the maritime industrial base in Mobile. Mobile County has several shipyards that play an important role in building and repairing ships for the Department of Defense, U.S. Coast Guard, and commercial customers. This sector is both critical to our national defense and to the continued growth of the Mobile economy.

The Mobile Chamber supports free and fair trade and investment policies that expand access to international markets, reduce trade barriers and increase foreign direct investment creating a level playing field to put Mobile area families, businesses, and workers first and improve the overall international competitiveness of Alabama exporters.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation defining "mass balance attribution" in solid waste disposal and recyclable materials management, ensuring clarity and accountability in regulatory frameworks for sustainable waste management practices and promoting a more circular economy.

The Mobile Chamber does not support the broad application of tariffs across all industries, as such measures can create unnecessary barriers to trade, hinder economic growth, and increase costs for consumers. However, we do recognize the critical importance of safeguarding national security and protecting strategic industries essential to the country's defense and infrastructure. In these specific cases, the implementation of targeted tariffs may be a necessary tool to preserve domestic capabilities and ensure the long-term security of vital sectors. Our approach emphasizes balance—promoting free and fair trade while addressing genuine national security concerns where appropriate.

A SAFE AND HEALTHY ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports strong effective measures to address the growing opioid and fentanyl crisis in Alabama that has detrimental effects on the availability of a qualified workforce, workplace safety, public safety and overall community health.

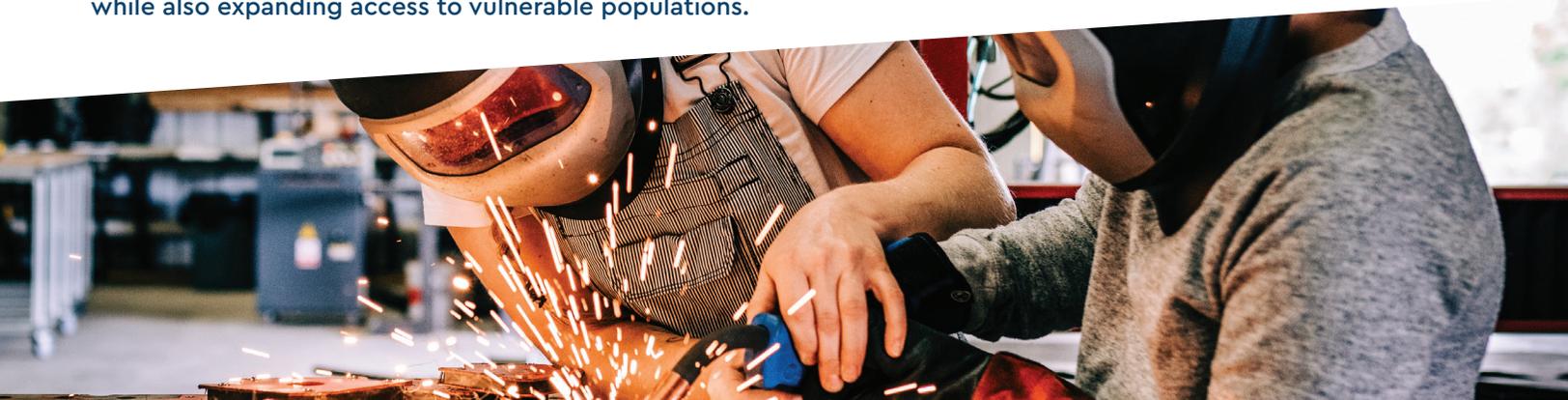
The Mobile Chamber supports and encourages the state leadership to pursue the estimated \$2 billion annually in federal funds available to create an Alabama-driven approach to close the healthcare coverage gap which will return Alabama tax dollars to the state. Additionally, the Chamber supports innovative approaches to reforming Alabama's current Medicaid program that includes the participation of the Alabama healthcare community to ensure access to care, cost control, and limit potential detrimental impacts to the Medicaid program.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand mental and behavioral health programs to increase access to mental healthcare, increase diagnoses and reduce suicide rates.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation to prohibit the possession of a pistol with parts intended to convert it into an automatic weapon and legislation to prevent drug users and dealers convicted of a felony from owning a firearm, both aligning with existing federal law.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation that increases penalties from a Class B to a Class A felony for individuals found guilty of shooting into occupied vehicles or dwellings.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislative efforts to lower prescription drug prices without imposing undue financial burdens on consumers and businesses emphasizing transparency, competition and innovation in pricing models, while also expanding access to vulnerable populations.



GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The Mobile Chamber supports the continuation of federal payments to Alabama, specifically Mobile and Baldwin counties, from the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Under GOMESA, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas receive a share of the revenue from oil and gas drilling in federal waters, which helps address coastal restoration, hurricane protection and watershed management programs in coastal Alabama.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for investments in climate-resilient infrastructure like a new I-10 Bridge and Bayway in an effort to mitigate damage from future storms.

The Mobile Chamber supports legislation authorizing Class 2 municipalities to enter delegation agreements with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, enabling local enforcement of the Alabama Scrap Tire Environmental Quality Act and granting municipal courts jurisdiction over violations with associated criminal penalties.

The Mobile Chamber actively supports buy-local seafood programs by advocating for policies at both the state and federal levels that promote the Gulf Coast seafood industry. This includes working with government agencies to secure funding, providing platforms for local seafood businesses to connect with larger markets, fostering partnerships between seafood producers and local retailers, and ensuring sustainability and economic growth for the region's seafood industry.

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES, AMERICA'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

The Mobile Chamber supports preserving jobs and economic growth in all sectors through the reduction of overly burdensome regulations that increase the cost of doing business, create uncertainty and have the potential to stifle growth.

The Mobile Chamber encourages the representation and engagement of the Alabama Innovation Commission and the Alabama STEM Council to improve the creation and growth of small businesses and entrepreneurial development in Alabama as well as workforce development opportunities across the state.

The Mobile Chamber supports the growth and development of Mobile's entrepreneurial community and Innovation Portal's mapping of entrepreneurial talent to meet the growing technological needs of industry with state funding opportunities. Promote efforts to provide much-needed programming, skills training and funding for entrepreneurial clients, as well as enable the engagement of local industry to identify technological solutions to small business challenges.

The Mobile Chamber, as a member of the I-10 Gulf Coast Chamber Coalition, supports the collaborative efforts to develop collective responses to shared challenges – such as FEMA response, wind and flood insurance, infrastructure, oil and gas leasing, and coastal protection.

The Mobile Chamber supports extending the notification period for insurance policy cancellations and adjustments, aiming to provide individuals and businesses with increased time to prepare for any potential changes or to seek alternative coverage. This adjustment would offer more stability and assistance to policyholders in navigating insurance transitions.



FUNDAMENTAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ALABAMA

The Mobile Chamber supports increasing Alabama's investment in transportation infrastructure to sustain and promote economic growth, job creation, quality of life and public safety. The Chamber recognizes there will always be a gap between state resources and infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to the development of new projects. The Chamber believes it is critical to invest state resources in roadways that spur economic growth and increase public safety, namely the I-10 Mobile River Bridge and Bayway Project, the US 90/98 Causeway, U.S. HWY 45, the West Alabama Corridor (HWY 43), State Route 158 from Mobile to the Mississippi line, improvements to I-65 and I-10, and Baldwin County Beach Express Extension.

The Mobile Chamber supports the Mobile Airport Authority's efforts to secure final funding of Mobile's commercial terminal at the Mobile International Airport.

The Mobile Chamber advocates for adequately funding Alabama's Education budget, including Alabama's first-class pre-kindergarten, career tech, dual enrollment and other innovative programs, to ensure a competitive increase in student scoring, higher graduation rates and competitive college-and-career-ready graduates.

The Mobile Chamber supports a fiscal year 2026 state budget appropriation for the University of South Alabama that reflects the institution's positive impact on its students, community and our region, along with additional funding to support USA Health in recognition of its unique mission as the region's only academic health care provider with a Level One Trauma Center, Burn Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care facility.

The Mobile Chamber supports state investment of one-time and ongoing education funding to enhance the facilities and equipment at all four campuses of Bishop State Community College, focused around improving student support services and workforce development training opportunities to meet regional occupational demand.

The Mobile Chamber supports efforts to expand and maintain comprehensive statewide veterans' assistance programs to ensure Alabama is the best state for military families and personnel (active and retired) to live and work.

The Mobile Chamber continues to support an industrial or research enterprise's right to appeal the fair market valuation of its property and equipment while continuing to consider obsolescence as part of its fair market value calculation.

The Mobile Chamber supports amending the definition of "low- or moderate-income person or family" to include individuals or families earning up to 140% of the area's average median income (AMI). This adjustment allows municipalities greater flexibility in allocating local funds to support the construction and expansion of workforce housing, addressing the growing demand for affordable housing solutions.

The Mobile Chamber supports creating an additional tax incentive pilot program designed to continue to meet the housing demand of Alabama's workforce. The program would be a state initiative to encourage private investments in workforce housing by offering tax credits to individuals and businesses who contributed to eligible projects. The program incentivizes donations to approved workforce housing projects, granting tax credits equivalent to the amount donated. This setup aims to streamline the acquisition of property, removal of blighted property, and infrastructure improvements, incentivizing developers in Alabama to further develop additional housing demands.





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