

VIRGINIA CHAMBER'S 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

During the 2022 General Assembly Session, the Virginia Chamber will support bills that implement the recommendations of Blueprint Virginia 2030 and promote economic prosperity for all Virginians. Below we list a selection of Blueprint priorities that the Virginia Chamber is focused on for the upcoming session.

Please see the Chamber's Bills We Are Watching Page for our position on specific bills:
<https://www.vachamber.com/advocacy/bills-were-watching/>

HEALTH CARE FOR SMALL BUSINESS

- Enable small businesses to pool their risk and achieve scale similar to large employer plans through a Health Benefits Consortium which will improve affordability, access, and high-quality benefits for small businesses with 2-50 employees

WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

- Expand work-based learning opportunities for Virginia students, employers, and educational institutions through the initiatives of the [Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership \(Virginia TOP\)](#)

- Support the higher education initiatives from the Growth4VA campaign which seeks to improve Virginia's talent supply, the affordability of higher education, the innovation ecosystem, and educational opportunity for all Virginians

- Provide additional funding to Virginia's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and collaborate on efforts to close the educational, economic, and entrepreneurial gaps in Virginia

- Support the childcare and early learning industries to improve access to high quality, affordable childcare for working families

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthen Virginia's inventory of strategic, project-ready sites
 - Prioritize a significant state investment in building out more Tier 4 and Tier 5 shovel-ready, greenfield sites to catch up with competitor states to attract opportunities from the growing domestic advanced manufacturing industry including necessary infrastructure to support these sites; and ongoing investments to maintain and expand the Commonwealth's full portfolio of sites
- Ease the tax burden on military retirement income

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Enact targeted legal reforms, defend our legal climate, and promote positive features of Virginia's business climate and civil justice system
- Streamline and reduce regulatory burdens for business
 - Promote consistency in regulations as it relates to development of critical infrastructure that facilitates the flow of people, goods, and services
 - Ensure an efficient and balanced unemployment and workers' compensation system and support improvement in the Virginia Employment Commission's ability to process valid claims and identify fraudulent ones
 - Restore financial solvency to the unemployment insurance trust fund

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Fund improvements to the Norfolk International Terminals North Optimization initiative for the Virginia Port Authority
- Support broadband advancement and access initiatives that:
 - Embrace a variety of approaches for expanding broadband access to unserved parts of Virginia
 - Increase financial support for public-private partnerships to facilitate broadband deployment in unserved areas

CONTACT THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

EMAIL: POLICYTEAM@VACHAMBER.COM

VISIT THE BLUEPRINT WEBSITE: WWW.BLUEPRINTVIRGINIA.ORG