

OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

136TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Ohio Manufacturing Technologies Assistance Program (House Bill 159)

- Implements a matching grant program to help small and medium-sized manufacturers modernize machinery and facilities, overcoming financial and technological barriers.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Innovation and Collaboration, Pg. 61, Recommendation 3.2*

2. Bringing Transparency to Third Party Litigation Financing (House Bill 105/Senate Bill 10)

- Reforms third-party litigation funding with disclosure of funding agreements to level the legal playing field, contract standards to prevent predatory lending practices, prohibition of funders influencing decisions about legal strategy or settlement, ban of agreements with foreign entities that may threaten U.S. business or national security, and barring attorneys from sharing protected information with investors.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

3. Curtailing the Use of Public Nuisance Lawsuits (House Bill 126)

- Prohibits public nuisance claims or causes of action at common law in which it is alleged that the design, manufacture, supply, marketing, distribution, promotion, advertising, labeling, or sale of a product unreasonably interferes with a right common to the public.
- Prevents the targeting of industries and lawful products for litigation under the guise of public nuisance when they function as designed and intended.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

4. Combating Workforce Shortages in Ohio's Child Care System (House Bill 484/Senate Bill 177)

- Creates the Workforce Investment Now (WIN) program to provide publicly funded child care to child care staff members based on household income or who work at least 20 hours a week in the field.
- Increases the value of wages while incentivizing early childhood workers to enter or remain in this vocation.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce, Pg. 27, Recommendation 1.1*

5. Implementation of the Ohio Taxpayer Protection Act

- Coalition-developed policy solutions to streamline municipal income tax compliance, including: centralizing administration and collection on the Ohio personal income tax return, encourage 100% resident credit for taxes paid to work city, clarification that only Ohio residents can be municipal residents, and elimination of the municipal net profits tax.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Taxes and Costs, Pg. 52, Recommendations 2 & 3*

6. Create Statutory Framework to Pierce the Corporate Veil (Senate Bill 146)

- Improves our state's business climate by reinforcing the longstanding principle that business entities provide broad liability protections for their owners, officers, and directors.
- Brings civil justice system predictability by specifying regulatory enforcement actions can only pierce the corporate veil in limited circumstances when an individual who has complete control of a business engages in illegal activities that result in damages.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

7. Enact Updates to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (House Bill 613/Senate Bill 359)

- Modernizes the tax appeals process by adding firm deadlines, increases transparency and data reporting, and implements new taxpayer protections including termination of interest accruals after a certain time period and reviews of proposed decisions.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness, Pg. 69, Recommendation 1.3*

8. Greater K-12 Exposure to Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (House Bill 594/Senate Bill 326)

- Require school districts to offer, and students to complete, at least one high school computer science course including instruction in artificial intelligence—understanding what it is, how it works, and its societal impact.
- Broadens student access to technology and cultivates a skilled workforce pipeline.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce, Pg. 30, Recommendation 4.2*

9. Licensing and Contract Requirements for Pharmacy Benefit Managers (House Bill 229)

- Creates stand-alone PBM licensing under the Ohio Department of Insurance with clear oversight and consistent standards.
- Requires PBMs to provide employers with regular accounting of rebates, discounts, fees, and utilization data.
- Helps employers manage prescription drug spending with greater predictability and promotes a fair, competitive healthcare marketplace.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place, Pg. 41, Recommendation 2.1*

10. Creation of an "Ohio, The Heart of It All" Pass (House Bill 732)

- Creates a free, electronic pass promoting Ohio arts and attractions through TourismOhio and America 250-Ohio.
- Allows Ohio businesses to provide added value or discounts to pass holders.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place, Pg. 42, Recommendation 3*