



ILLINOIS CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Recent Legislative Accomplishments

Key Successes

- Defeated tax increases on employers totaling over \$10 Billion.
 - 5% income tax extension
 - Progressive Income Tax
 - 3% income tax surcharge on “millionaires”
- Stopped legislation that would have given Illinois one of the highest minimum wages in the nation.
- Authored law to give employers neutral appeal of adverse tax decisions.
- Created streamlined permitting process at the Illinois EPA.
- Drove workers’ compensation reform process.
- Pushed through job creation “fracking” legislation.
- Defeated a new service tax on deliveries.
- Authored major portions and secured passage of state procurement.

Taxation

- Defeated Speaker Madigan's constitutional amendment for a 3% income tax surcharge on individuals, including most small businesses, to increase funding for education spending (HJRCA51; 98th GA).
- Defeated a constitutional amendment to replace Illinois' flat income tax with a progressive income tax that could raise taxes on some by nearly 50% (HJRCA 33 and SJRCA 40; 98th GA).
- Defeated Governor Quinn's call to extend the 5% income tax rate that is set to revert to 3.75% at the end of 2014 (HB 395; 98th GA).
- Defeated Governor Quinn's call for \$450 million corporate income tax increase that would have double taxed dividends and ended an important job creation incentive (HB 390; 98th GA).
- Stopped Senate President Cullerton's plan to put vital corporate income tax information on the internet (HB 3627; 98th GA).
- Defeated legislation to place a tax on soda and other sugary beverages (HB 397; 98th GA).
- Once again stopped Quinn's constant drive for more business taxes by defeating tax increases on the petroleum industry, technology (2012 Budget Address).
- Authored new law and secured funding for an independent tax tribunal to hear appeals of adverse tax decisions by the Department of Revenue, replacing the old process of appealing back to the Department (HB 5192; 97th GA).
- Wrote and passed legislation that eliminates the requirement for corporate officers to list their social security numbers on sales tax registrations (SB 2243; 98th GA).
- Secured unanimous opposition from legislators to a Department of Revenue rule that would have created a new service tax on product deliveries.
- Preserved open space property tax assessments for corporate campuses and other open lands owned by employers (HB 1053; 98th GA).
- Passed enterprise zone extension legislation out of the Senate two consecutive years before the extension was successful and important economic development incentives were secured (SB 3616; 97th GA).

Employment Law/ Workers' Compensation

- Stalled legislation in the House that would create a state run retirement program for private sector workers (SB 2758; 98th GA).
- Drove home the need for comprehensive workers' compensation reform, resulting in modest improvements but also momentum for additional change (PA 18; 97th GA).
- Defeated organized labor's drive to increase Illinois' minimum wage to nearly \$11/hour (SB 68; 98th GA).
- Added the strongest employer protections/drug free workplace provisions in the nation to Illinois' medical marijuana law (HB 1; 98th GA).
- Stopped the creation of a new Illinois FMLA law that would have created additional burdens on employers (HB 927; 98th GA).
- Authored and passed the Workplace Violence Prevention Act, a new law that gives employers expanded authority to keep potentially dangerous individuals away from the workplace (HB 2590; 98th GA).
- Led the effort to defeat an ill-conceived plan to create a new state-owned workers' compensation insurance company (HB 1030; 98th GA).



Health Care

- Secured passage of legislation to preserve the Hospital Assessment, transition to Medicaid managed care, and \$400 million in additional federal revenue to support Illinois' Medicaid program (SB 741; 98th GA).
- Killed legislation that would have set up a commission to design a state-run single payer health care system (HB 223; 97th GA).

Procurement, Patent Reform, Regulatory Modernization

- Authored major portions and negotiated passage of measures that simplified the state's procurement code, while keeping taxpayer safeguards intact (SB 2958; 97th GA and HB 5491; 98th GA).
- Promoted passage of laws that modernized telecommunications and gas utility regulation, leading to greater investment. (SB 1664, SB 2266; 98th GA).
- Secured passage of bipartisan and industrywide supported legislation to combat patent trolling in Illinois creating a statewide model that may be adopted by other states to combat a national problem to protect industry and technology patents (SB 3405; 98th GA).

Environment & Energy

- Wrote and secured passage of new law creating an expedited permitting process at the Illinois EPA. The bill also moved thousands of small businesses from a permitting process to a simple registration (HB 1297; 97th GA).
- Played a key role in the jobs creation push for passage of reasonable regulation of high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) (SB 1715; 98th GA).
- Streamlined the state's process for siting pipelines, for the first time setting a time limit on the process so businesses have certainty in the process (HB1703; 97th GA).
- Opposed the outrageously expensive electricity generation project Tenaska and was vital in securing Governor's veto of expensive synthetic gas project Leucadia (SB 2485, SB 3766; 97th GA).
- Passed legislation streamlining the state's process for adopting federal clean air regulations, keeping employers from having to comply with two sets of regulations (SB 3672; 97th GA).
- Kept organized labor from cornering all work installing electric vehicle charging stations and distributive energy devices (SB 105; 98th GA).

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Pushed through a capital investment bill on the last day of session that resulted in billions of dollars for the state's roads, bridges, transit and rail projects (PA 771; 97th GA).
- Secured passage of a \$1 billion "mini" capital project bill to provide additional funding for the state's infrastructure (HB 3794; 98th GA).