

The SBAC has worked with leadership to formulate an agenda that will support small businesses, local communities, and the Illinois economy. This agenda will foster the recovery of the small business community from the pandemic. Please support our small businesses by sponsoring and championing the following legislation:

Back to Business Grants - HB5489

This legislation will appropriate an additional \$300 million into the Back to Business grant program. Some small businesses received Business Interruption Grants or Back to Business grants to help them recover from the pandemic and mitigation measures implemented to curb the spread of the virus. However, too many eligible small businesses applied for Business Interruption Grants and Back to Business grants but received no relief. Illinois received over \$8 billion in ARPA funding but only allocated \$250 million for the Back to Business grant program. Funds should be replenished and promptly allocated to the businesses which applied and others still struggling because of the pandemic.

Relief for Local Chambers of Commerce – HB4993

Local chambers of commerce have been devastated by the pandemic and mitigations designed to curb the spread of the virus. Pandemic-related fundraising and membership challenges have caused many chambers to struggle. This legislation will appropriate a \$5 million to provide grants to chambers that total two months of lost revenue between 2019 and 2020. Prompt relief is needed for the local chambers that support small businesses and local communities.

Supplementing The Workforce

Small businesses are struggling to find employees. This is disrupting their operations and the Illinois economy. This legislation will supplement our workforce while at the same time, support small businesses:

The Safer Communities & Small Business Act – HB3215

House Bill 3215 can support small businesses that hire returning citizens, save our state millions each year and create long-term revenue. This legislation will provide crucial on-the-job training to formerly incarcerated Illinoisans and supplement the workforce. The legislation can foster economic growth in disadvantaged communities.

Child Care Tax Credit – HB5389

This legislation can help bring working families and women back into the workforce. This legislation will provide a tax credit to working families who make \$75K/year filing jointly or \$45K/year as a single filer with children 17 years or younger. For the first eligible child, the taxpayer will receive a credit in the amount of \$1,500. Each additional eligible child would yield a credit of \$500, with a maximum allowable tax credit per family of \$2,500. This investment in working families and our economy will generate revenue by fostering the growth of businesses struggling to maintain their workforce and by getting parents back to work so they have money to spend in our economy.

Rise Act – HB4455

The Rise Act will provide \$5,000 grants to small businesses that train and provide on-the-job training to new employees. This will support small businesses that hire individuals interested in career changes, in part, facilitated by the pandemic. This will connect those interested in working in a new field with small businesses struggling to hire new employees. The grant will offset the costs associated with on-the-job training at the inception of the employer-employee relationship.

Unleashing Entrepreneurs & Supplementing the Workforce

Occupational licenses are often necessary to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public. However, when these licenses are revisited by legislators, it is important they have accurate and unbiased information before determining whether and how to maintain such a license.

Regulatory Sunset Act - HB5576

This legislation amends the Regulatory Sunset Act to require the existing sunset report process collects and provides comprehensive and specific information about the need for licensure, the licensing process, and the equity concerns arising from personal qualifications, such as the cost of training and continuing education and whether such requirements are suitably addressing public safety. The bill provides guidance for the report's recommendations of modifications to licensing rules that will lower barriers for applicants but still address genuine public safety concerns, including a list of regulatory tools other than licensure, like registration or certification, disclosures, or insurance requirements. The bill does not usurp legislators ability to make the final determination regarding a license.

License Information Task Force - HB5575

This legislation creates a task force that includes representatives from low- and middle-income licensed occupations along with a mix of academics, advocates, administrators, and legislators. The goal of the task force is to collect, centralize, and analyze data from IDFPR about low- and middle-income licensed occupations and evaluate licenses using an equity and access lens. The legislation provides that a final report will be published and provided to the General Assembly with recommendations about increasing equity and economic opportunity. With this comprehensive information, legislators can target reform efforts to preserve public safety while removing unnecessary requirements.

Revitalizing Commercial Corridors - HB4374, SB3477

Vacancies in Cook County cause blight, increased crime, and hurt commercial corridors throughout Chicago. Commercial property owners in Cook County can receive a reduction in the property taxes based on full or partial vacancy so long as they are making a good faith effort to lease their space. The Vacancy Fraud Act will help ensure that property owners who receive a reduction in property taxes, because of full or partial vacancy, attempt to lease, sell, or modify or alter their property for lease or sale. For property owners that do not fulfill that commitment or otherwise attempt to sell or modify/alter the property, they will be required to pay back the property tax reduction and pay a penalty.

Government Consolidation - Property Tax Reform - HB0433

The rapid growth of property taxes has harmed Illinois residents and small businesses. To improve the fiscal condition of our state and help small businesses rebound from the pandemic, structural changes must be made to reduce property taxes. House Bill HB0433 will give voters the power to decide whether to consolidate duplicative, excessive, or unnecessary units of government. This would not be a mandate but, rather, it would give Illinoisans an opportunity to vote by referendum to lower the cost of their government and rein in property taxes. This legislation increases transparency for local taxpayers as redundant governmental units are dissolved and puts the decision-making power in the hands of local communities.