

The Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC) is laser-focused on formulating and fighting to pass policies that support small businesses and local communities. The SBAC is working to pass legislation to help small businesses hire and train employees, reduce needless red tape, and support chambers of commerce which support local businesses. Below are some of the legislative initiatives on our agenda:

Incentivizing Small Businesses to Hire and Train Returning Citizens– HB3215

Small businesses are struggling to hire employees. This is disrupting their operations and having a profound impact on the economy. House Bill 3215 will provide wage subsidies and grants to small businesses that hire formerly incarcerated citizens, so they have resources to provide on-the-job training to returning citizens. This will support small businesses, supplement our workforce, reduce the costs of incarceration, improve public safety and foster economic growth in disadvantaged communities.

Relief for Local Chambers of Commerce – HB4993

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

Child Care Tax Credit - HB5389

House Bill 5389 will provide a tax credit to working families who make \$75,000/year filing jointly or \$45,000/year as a single filer with children 17 years or younger. For the first eligible child, the taxpayer will receive a \$1,500 credit. Each additional eligible child would yield a credit of \$500, with a maximum allowable tax credit per family of \$2,500. This tax credit will support small businesses by supplementing Illinois' depleted workforce. This will bring parents struggling to afford childcare back into the workforce.

Occupational Licensing Reform

Occupational licenses are often necessary to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the public. However, overly restrictive and burdensome licensing requirements can impact the ability of small businesses to hire employees and create needless barriers for entrepreneurs. Last legislative session the SBAC championed the Regulatory Sunset Act to provide crucial information which can help policymakers evaluate occupational licenses and eliminate or modify them when appropriate. We will now look to pass legislation that permits some entrepreneurs and potential employees licensed in other states to perform certain services in Illinois. This legislation will help bring entrepreneurs and potential employees into Illinois.

Intrastate Equity Crowdfunding

Encouraging local investment in neighborhood business districts can help support and revitalize communities. Intrastate equity crowdfunding can foster local investment in commercial corridors and support entrepreneurs who need capital to scale their businesses. The SBAC led the charge to allow intrastate equity crowdfunding in Illinois. We are now advocating for an allocation of funding to build a crowdfunding website to make intrastate equity crowdfunding a viable option in Illinois.

**We are working to pass more policies to support the small business community!
Please reach out to us at info@sbacil.org for more information!**