

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's 2023 agenda includes legislation that will support small businesses struggling to hire and retain employees and stabilize the costs of health insurance. The SBAC is also advocating for bills that will increase transparency and level the playing field for small businesses vying for government contracts. Our agenda includes the following legislation:

**CHILD CARE
TAX CREDIT
HB 2327**

Small businesses are struggling to hire and retain employees. This is one of the most pressing concerns for small businesses in Illinois. An Illinois childcare tax credit will support small businesses while bringing people struggling with the costs of childcare back into the workforce. HB 2327 provides a tax credit to families who earn up to \$75,000/year. Taxpayers with one child will receive a \$1,500 tax credit and another \$500 credit for each additional child up to a maximum of \$2500 credit. More information about this legislation can be found [here](#):

**HEALTH
INSURANCE
SB1912**

The health insurance premiums of small businesses are skyrocketing. Many small businesses are having difficulty affording the cost of health insurance and premium increases are impacting the ability of small businesses to hire and retain talent. SB 1912 will protect small businesses unable to control the costs of increasing health insurance premiums while leveling the playing field for the small business community. SB 1912 will give the Illinois Department of Insurance the authority to take a more active role in reviewing and approving rate increases for small businesses. This legislation will help prevent small businesses from being hit with excessive premium increases while ensuring information is provided to the public that explains the reason insurance premiums continue to increase.

**PROCUREMENT
BIDDING
REFORM
SB 2192**

Small businesses play a critical role in Illinois' economy. Helping small businesses receive their fair share of state procurement contracts is important for job creation and the success of the state's small businesses. SB2192 would require the chief procurement officer for each state agency that rejects four consecutive bids from a small business to provide that business with a written explanation of the reasons the four bids were rejected. The explanation would be submitted within the same quarter that the fourth bid was rejected.

**TRANSPARENCY
BILL
HB 2368**

Each year Illinois awards government contracts to businesses. These contracts cover everything from construction projects to professional services. Small businesses that drive our economy often have difficulty competing for these government contracts. The same is true for minority and women-owned businesses. House Bill 2368 will increase transparency among agencies that award government contracts. This will help the public assess whether state agencies are meeting their goals and how tax dollars are being spent on government contracts.

**VACANCY
FRUAD ACT
SB 2027 &
HB 3014**

Struggling neighborhood business districts are often plagued by vacant properties. These commercial vacancies impact local economies, foster criminal activity, and devastate communities. Cook County has a policy that allows property owners to receive an incentive and reduce their property taxes because of vacancies. Property owners that receive this incentive should make every effort to lease their properties. Senate Bill 2027 and House Bill 3014 will require property owners in Cook County, that seek this incentive to provide truthful information throughout the process. This legislation will hinder the ability of out-of-state and other property owners to hold property and receive an incentive while not attempting to lease their property. This policy is one step that can be taken to revitalize neighborhood business districts.