

TOP 3 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Healthcare: *Association Health Plans* – Supporting the establishment of benefit consortium bills which offer affordable and accessible healthcare plan options for both employers and employees, such as through SB 195 (Sen. Mason) and HB 884 (Del. Byron).

Status: Passed, Governor signed into law April 11, 2022.

Education: *Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant* – The Alliance continues to strongly support the Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant, increased per student award amount, and expansion to include on-line education and those focusing in health profession at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Status: TBD, General Assembly is currently in Special Session for the purpose of finalizing the 2022-2024 Biennium Budget. TAG funding will not be determined until budget is approved.

Economic Development: *Central Virginia Training Center* – the Alliance is a key strategic partner and vocal advocate of the CVTC Master Redevelopment plan. State Senator Steve Newman submitted a \$25 million budget amendment to defease the remaining bonds on the Training Center site. The Alliance fully supports its inclusion in the 2022-2024 Biennium Budget.

Status: TBD, General Assembly is currently in Special Session for the purpose of finalizing the 2022-2024 Biennium Budget. CVTC bond defeasance will not be determined until budget is approved.

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA WINS

Economic Development: *Incentives* – The Alliance supported several initiatives to promote business expansion and economic growth, including HB 186 (Del. Campbell), HB 269 (Del. Byron), HB 324 (Del. Williams Graves), SB 685 (Sen. Mason), and a huge win with SB 28 (Sen. Marsden). These bills include funds to support a program through the VEDP's Virginia Talent Accelerator Program, major business facility job tax credits, and a shipping and logistics headquarters grant program.

Energy & Infrastructure: *Broadband* – The Alliance supported action for local broadband development, such as HB 1265 (Del. Subramanyam), to direct the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop a plan to address broadband affordability and equity.

Healthcare: *Mandated Paid Leave Programs* – The Alliance is opposed to any mandated Paid Leave Program, such as SB 1 (Sen. Boysko), which was carried over to the 2023 General Assembly session. The Alliance does support businesses providing their own employee benefits, such as Private Family Leave Insurance, HB 1156 (Del. Byron) and SB 15 (Sen. Favola).

Workforce: *Right-To-Work* – The Alliance opposes laws or regulations that undermine Virginia's "Right-To-Work" status, such as HB 1220 (Del. Clark), which was stricken from the docket by unanimous vote in the House Rules Committee.

DOLI Regulations – The Alliance supported the repeal of the permanent COVID-19 mandatory workplace safety rules.

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2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA LOSS

Workforce: Minimum Wage – The Alliance supports the repeal of minimum wage mandates which would allow businesses to recruit, retain, and incentivize employees appropriate to their industry and labor market. Legislation, such as SB 173 (Sen. Peake), to pause or repeal the mandated increase of the minimum wage failed to pass during the 2022 Session. We believe the market should drive growth and appropriate compensation for employees.

2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TO BE DECIDED

Several public policy issues the Alliance advocated for, this year, are yet to be addressed in full because a new two-year state budget has not been passed. These include:

Transportation: Issues such as expanded air service, rail service, VDOT SMART SCALE weighting.

Taxation: Simplification of the state tax code and reduced costs of compliance.

Mental Health: Funding of a comprehensive strategy to address the mental health crisis to remedy issues like long waits in emergency departments and relieving law enforcement from monitoring temporary detention orders (TDOs).

Education: Several issues the Alliance supported that have not been addressed through the budget include funding for the STEM Academy, funding the FastForward short-term training program and funding for childcare and early childhood education.

Energy Costs: The Alliance continues to oppose policies and regulations that increase energy costs for businesses. One proposal that might be addressed during the current Special Session is a three month Gas Tax Holiday.

HAVE AN ADVOCACY RELATED QUESTION?

Contact Barry Butler, the Alliance's Director of Government Relations,
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