

2021-2022 BIENNIUM REVIEW

How They Voted

WHERE LEGISLATORS STOOD ON
NORTH CAROLINA'S JOBS AGENDA

Introducing 2022 "How They Voted"



Following the legislative long session last year, I commented that the 2021 session of the North Carolina General Assembly had been among the more unusual I could recall in my more than two decades working close to the legislature. Lingering challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic – workforce shortages, supply chain disruptions, and large-scale uncertainty – continued to keep us from business as usual even as the NC Chamber shifted a big part of our focus back to longstanding priorities, like tax, infrastructure, and health care competitiveness and the alignment of our state’s education and talent supply systems. Policy developments at the national level – record amounts of federal funding, a historic infrastructure package, and COVID-19 mandates on employers – also exerted uncommon influence at the legislature. That environment certainly continued into the 2022 legislative short session.

Despite the lingering uncertainty, it was another productive session for the NC Chamber and for North Carolina’s job creators. We protected key assessment tools to guide the progress of our future workforce and gave businesses the certainty to operate more effectively in an increasingly digital environment. We’ve secured landmark energy legislation that will grow our economy and ensured that pro-jobs priorities like franchise tax reform advanced in the state budget.

Through the persistent efforts of the NC Chamber’s Destination 2030 Coalition, we laid the groundwork for bipartisan action to modernize North Carolina’s transportation infrastructure in 2021 and saw it come to fruition in 2022.

The NC Chamber is honored to advocate for business, even – especially – when it involves pushing past uncertainty. We’re equally honored to showcase the lawmakers from both sides of the political aisle who share these values. How They Voted presents a straightforward, objective accounting of who stepped up – and who did not – when given the chance to support job creators at the General Assembly.

I hope you find this year’s edition of How They Voted helpful in guiding your own efforts to shape a pro-business landscape here in North Carolina. The NC Chamber team is excited to work with organizations like yours to continue building on these successes in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary J. Salamido". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Gary J. Salamido
President and CEO
NC Chamber

Process & Methodology

How They Voted uses a standardized formula to objectively grade the voting performance of North Carolina legislators on the bills that were most consequential to NC Chamber members and the state's larger business community. These bills are organized under the NC Chamber's three pillars of pro-business advocacy: **Education and Talent Supply**, **Competitive Business Climate**, and **Infrastructure and Growth Leadership**.

Of the numerous bills filed that pertain to these policy areas, those eligible for consideration in *How They Voted* included any for which our advocacy team took a public position – either through direct advocacy at the General Assembly or through the NC Chamber's advocacy-related communications. The 2021-22 edition of *How They Voted* scored **16 bills total**, involving **17 House votes**, and **18 Senate votes**.

Legislators who supported the Chamber's position on a given vote receive one "pro-business" point in their favor, as do any primary sponsors of pro-business bills scored in the report. Legislators who voted against the Chamber's position receive one "anti-business" point. "Pro-business" points are then divided by total points to calculate each legislator's session score. Scores of 80 percent or above earn a legislator the distinction of being named a "Jobs Champion" for 2021-22.

Note: The title of Jobs Champion does not equate to an endorsement of a legislator's future candidacy by the NC Chamber, NC Chamber PAC, or another entity affiliated with the NC Chamber. Legislators must participate in at least 50 percent of their chamber's scored votes to be given an official score for 2021-22. Lifetime scores are calculated using the same formula but factor in votes from each of the past sessions a legislator has served in the General Assembly.

Bills Scored

- HB 220** Choice of Energy/Add'l Provisions
- HB 320** Modernize Remote Business Access
- HB 334** JOBS Grants and Tax Relief (Senate Finance Package)
- HB 776** Remote Notarization/
Gov't Transparency
- HB 947** The G.R.E.A.T. Broadband
Expansion Act
- HB 951** Energy Solutions for North Carolina
- HJR 469** Confirm Wanda Taylor/
Industrial Commission
- HJR 582** Confirm Governor's Special Sup.
Ct. Judges
- SB 085** Allow Vision Service Plans
- SB 116** Putting North Carolina Back to
Work Act
- SB 228** Allow Employers to Offer EPO
Benefit Plans
- SB 301** Expand Expunction Eligibility
- SB 387** Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021
- SB 462** CON/Threshold Amds. &
Certificate Expirations
- SB 605** North Carolina Farm Act of 2021
- HB 486** Replace EOC with National
Assessment

**While the bills summarized on the following pages represent a broad scope of NC Chamber advocacy this session, not every bill was scored for this report, typically due to having no votes in the General Assembly.*

2022

Legislative Agenda

Education & Talent Supply

- Support efforts that define, standardize, and incentivize workforce value non-degree credentials to align with in-demand jobs.
- Partner with the NC Community College System to identify policy reforms that can increase enrollment and strengthen training and reskilling programs.
- Continue to advocate for the state to refine its programs and policies aligned with the science of reading and to increase third-grade reading proficiency.
- Support a pre-K funding structure that adequately supports high-quality early childhood education.
- Advocate to identify learning deficiencies and to resolve them with evidence-based approaches.
- Support efforts to connect high-school students with postsecondary and career opportunities.
- Continue to advocate for high-quality academic pathways that reach all North Carolina high school students through college readiness programs or career opportunities.

Competitive Business Climate

- Advance value-driven health care, including support for association health plans.
- Support Certificate of Need (CON) reforms that reduce health care costs.
- Oppose attempts to expand health insurance mandates on businesses.
- Support and advocate for efforts to allow for full remote online notarization.
- Advance and protect tort and civil liability reforms that reestablish North Carolina's position as a top-10 legal business climate.
- Oppose legislation that would create any rebuttable presumption around COVID-19.
- Protect workers' compensation reforms and support a pro-business balance on the Industrial Commission and other boards and commissions.
- Defeat legislation that threatens North Carolina's status as a right-to-work state.
- Protect the integrity and solvency of our unemployment insurance (UI) system.
- Work to eliminate the state franchise tax.
- Monitor developments surrounding NCDOR's interpretation of tax law.
- Oppose burdensome regulations on food suppliers and other essential operators.
- Increase regulatory predictability and certainty for job creators related to environmental, social, and governance criteria.
- Seek a more predictable liability climate for food manufacturers.

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

- Advocate for a modernized transportation funding structure.
- Support implementation of the federal IJJA.
- Continue promoting an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy.
- Support efforts to strengthen broadband infrastructure

2021 AND 2022

State Budgets

In 2022, CNBC ranked North Carolina No. 1 in America's Top States for Business, with the nation's strongest economy. The CNBC ranking was followed by North Carolina taking the top spot for Best Business Climate in the nation in Business Facilities' 18th Annual Rankings Report. All after the Tar Heel State won Site Selection's top spot for Business Climate last fall, and the last iteration (2019) of Forbes' "Best State for Business" rankings had North Carolina on top, as well – for the third consecutive year.

None of these things happen by accident. They take collaboration and constant nurturing of relationships. The NC Chamber is unabashedly pro-business, which does not mean one political party or another. We want to work with anyone who is championing a healthy environment for job growth.

Many of the reforms achieved this biennium were passed with bipartisan support, including the state budget. 2021 marked the first budget approved by state lawmakers to become law since 2018. It continued the trend of enhancing North Carolina's competitiveness by enacting even more NC Chamber-backed pro-growth priorities. The budget's balanced approach to taxing and spending earned acclaim from leading business publications like the Wall Street Journal, whose editorial board praised* North Carolina for wisely taking a multibillion-dollar surplus and returning a sizeable amount back to our citizens and job creators in the form of reduced tax burdens.

The 2021 budget also advanced additional NC Chamber priorities, including targeted investments to support 21st-century infrastructure modernizations.

Key NC Chamber-supported measures in the state budget included:

- A reduced and simplified franchise tax on business assets that removes the two most burdensome of three bases previously used to tax the highest yielding base, ensuring instead that all companies are taxed on the same streamlined formula. This will lower costs and complications for most businesses and make our communities even more enticing to companies with asset-rich investments.
- An \$8 billion infrastructure investment plan to modernize North Carolina's transportation, broadband, water and sewer, and public education infrastructure.
- \$219 million to fund flood mitigation and resilience projects, including measures to harden existing infrastructure, clear ditches and streams, and create new positions to make permanent the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency.
- Roughly \$90 million in new, annually recurring Highway Fund revenue from short-term vehicle lease funds redirected from the General Fund (a solution advocated for by the NC Chamber's Destination 2030 Coalition).
- Phased reduction of the personal income tax rate from 5.25 percent to 3.99 percent (PIT applies to many smaller businesses that operate as passthrough entities).
- Federal conformity regarding taxation of Paycheck Protection Program loans. This allows North Carolina businesses – like businesses in many other states – to deduct expenses paid with these loans when filing state taxes.
- Extension of the Mill Rehabilitation Tax Credit until 2030 and extension of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit until 2031. These credits provide key incentives spurring economic development in smaller communities and rural areas.

While it seemed that it would be hard to top the policy wins achieved in 2021, the 2022 state budget, also a bipartisan win, included transformative transportation funding policy.

The state is committing to allocate a percentage of the total sales tax collected for transfer from the state's General Fund to the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund. The transfer would be marked at 2 percent in the 2023 fiscal year (est. \$193.1 million), 4 percent in 2024 (est. \$401.2 million), and 6 percent in 2025 and thereafter (est. \$628.3 million in 2025, \$655.9 million in 2026, and \$684.8 million in 2027). The revenue is split at 25 percent to the Highway Fund and 75 percent to the Highway Trust Fund.

The NC Chamber commends the legislature for its prioritization of transportation funding modernization. This is an investment in North Carolina's future to ensure people and products can move as safely and efficiently as possible.

*The Wall Street Journal, "A Tax Cut for the Tarheel State," 11/21/21

Education & Talent Supply

The NC Chamber has always strived to enhance our state's talent pipelines by fostering alignment between education systems, workforce-training programs, and the realities of the modern workplace. Acute talent supply challenges arising from the pandemic and a "great reassessment" of career priorities impacting workers has only made it more crucial that we support agile, accountable, strongly aligned workforce systems that can consistently produce and attract a competitive, diverse supply of talent for North Carolina.

PRO-BUSINESS BILLS



House Bill 224: Occupational Therapy Interstate Compact

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Potts, Rep. K. Baker, Rep. Humphrey, Rep. Hurley

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

House Bill 224 provides for North Carolina's participation in an interstate compact that will cut unneeded red tape affecting our occupational health industry, enabling occupational therapists and therapy assistants to practice across member states. Our involvement in this compact will benefit job creators and job seekers by broadening pathways to occupational therapy careers and benefit the public by widening access to critical health services in our communities.



Senate Bill 103: Reduce Reg. To Help Children with Autism

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Perry, Sen. Lee, Sen. Barnes

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

By removing a regulation that required applied behavior analysts to practice under the supervision of one of fewer than 70 specialized psychologists in North Carolina – and by bringing our state into alignment with all others – this bill enhances our state's ability to attract these skilled professionals. It also ensures that the life skills they impart will nurture positive growth for more of the 65,000 children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders in our state.



Senate Bill 301: Expand Expunction Eligibility

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Britt, Sen. Daniel, Sen. Lee

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

Senate Bill 301 expands upon measures passed in 2020 as part of the NC Chamber-supported Second Chance Act, which removed barriers to workforce entry for North Carolinians with nonviolent criminal records. The bill is yet another compassionate step forward to address our workforce needs by connecting more qualified North Carolinians with high-quality careers.



Senate Bill 387: Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Berger, Sen. Ballard, Sen. Lee

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

Among its many provisions, the Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021 establishes state standards aligned with the "Science of Reading," an evidence-based instruction method shown to help improve reading proficiency in young learners. The bill will ensure North Carolina's pre-K and elementary school educators are trained in this method and that the method is applied consistently across our public school system. Senate Bill 387 earned strong support from the NC Chamber early in the 2021 session, which helped assure its bipartisan passage.

 **Senate Bill 671: Virtual Educ./Remote Acad./Virtual Charters**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Lee, Sen. Ballard, Sen. Galey
Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed how our school systems must be prepared to educate students statewide in any emergency. This bill is a step forward in ensuring students across North Carolina can continue learning during future emergencies and that students can receive their education in the environment that best suits their needs. This bill provides public schools in North Carolina with the ability to use up to five remote learning days for snow closings or other emergency conditions causing campuses to close. Schools that offered full-time virtual education in the 2021-2022 school year may continue providing full-time remote instruction in the 2022-2023 school year. Charter schools may also offer this option. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, public schools that meet certain requirements may establish remote academies.

House Bill 731: Add'l Path to NC Early Childhood Credential

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. White
Status: The language of this bill was included in the conference report for House Bill 159, which was signed into law. This is a win for the NC Chamber.

This bill streamlines the process for N.C. teachers in earning their early childhood education credentials by allowing individuals to “test out” of required community college classes or receive a Child Development Associate Credential from the Council for Professional Recognition. At this time, individuals must complete early child coursework at a North Carolina community college to earn a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential. Advancing additional pathways for individuals to earn a North Carolina Early Childhood Credential is vital to both a child’s academic future and a parent’s ability to work. Too many North Carolinians, mainly mothers, have left the state’s workforce due to childcare demands. Filling early childhood teacher pipelines statewide is also essential to ensuring North Carolina has the talent for businesses landing and expanding in our great state.

Senate Bill 116: Putting North Carolina Back to Work Act

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Sen. Sawyer, Sen. Britt
Status: Passed General Assembly with NC Chamber support; vetoed by Gov. Cooper

In 2021, initial projections of an unencumbered recovery for the U.S. economy were soon checked by the rise of Delta and other interlocking challenges, among them a nationwide talent shortage with roots stemming from earlier in the pandemic. Senate Bill 116 emerged – due to changes adopted in the House – as a promising solution for North Carolina. It aimed to direct \$250 million in federal funds into subsidized childcare programs to support a faster return to the workforce for parents and other North Carolinians struggling under pandemic-related childcare burdens. It also proposed ending our state’s lingering dependence on emergency federal unemployment assistance designed for a different phase of the pandemic – when large-scale shutdowns meant jobs were widely unavailable – but which then only threatened to prolong our talent shortage and further delay North Carolina’s relaunch. The NC Chamber spent weeks leading coalition efforts that ultimately secured Senate Bill 116’s bipartisan passage, only to see its potential to recharge our recovery thwarted by the Governor’s veto.

ANTI-BUSINESS BILL

 **House Bill 486: Replace EOC with National Assessment**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Elmore, Rep. Bell, Rep. K. Hall, Rep. Torbett
Status: Sidelined by NC Chamber opposition

Now more than ever, North Carolina’s educators must be able to regularly assess the unique academic needs of every student and quantify any learning gaps that might appear in real-time, so they can effectively guide student development. This harmful bill would have eliminated two of the primary tools by which they do this, replacing end-of-course (EOC) tests for students in grades 9–12 with a single national assessment in 11th grade and dispensing with similar ACT WorkKeys assessments for career and technical education students. Strong NC Chamber opposition to House Bill 486 ensured these vital measurement tools remained intact.

Competitive Business Climate

Though North Carolina continues to rake in accolades for our increasingly competitive business climate, we cannot be complacent as we navigate out of a pandemic. The race for top talent and diverse businesses has not slowed down because the world is facing unprecedented challenges – if anything, it's sped up. We must continually strengthen and protect the core components of our competitive business climate, so we can keep attracting job creators across industries and growing and retaining high-quality jobs for hardworking North Carolinians.

PRO-BUSINESS BILLS



House Bill 320: Modernize Remote Business Access

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. D. Hall, Rep. Bradford, Rep. Paré, Rep. Howard

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated and accentuated a pre-existing need for companies to be able to conduct official meetings and carry out essential business using remote platforms. By legally authorizing corporations and certain other business entities to hold remote shareholder meetings and allowing nonprofit corporations to conduct all business electronically, House Bill 320 further modernizes the operational landscape for North Carolina business.



House Joint Resolution 469 & Senate Joint Resolution 718: Industrial Commission Appointments

Primary Bill Sponsor: Rep. D. Hall, Sen. Rabon

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

The NC Chamber believes in protecting a balanced equilibrium on the NC Industrial Commission, where parties with varied interests and leaders from both major parties collaborate to support fair and judicious oversight of our workers' compensation system. These resolutions confirmed former chief deputy commissioner Wanda Taylor & former deputy commissioner Adrian Phillips as full commissioners, adding additional experience and competence to foster balance on this key commission.



House Joint Resolution 582: Confirm Governor's Special Sup. Ct. Judges

Primary Bill Sponsor: Rep. D. Hall

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

The five Special Superior Court judges who sit on the North Carolina Business Court are charged with ruling individually on civil cases involving complex questions of corporate and commercial law – questions that often have immense impacts on employers. This resolution confirmed four capable, experienced individuals nominated by Gov. Cooper to serve on this important court.



Senate Bill 85: Allow Vision Service Plans

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Corbin, Sen. Burgin, Sen. Woodard

Status: *Passed into law with NC Chamber support*

Before this bill's passage, state laws made it difficult for health plans offering just one type of coverage (e.g., dental) to offer additional coverage. Senate Bill 85 streamlines and modernizes these laws to boost our health care competitiveness. It defines any nonprofit corporation offering dental, health, medical, or vision plans as a "hospital service corporation" and enables these entities to provide vision service plans in conjunction with their primary offering.

✔ **Senate Bill 228: Allow Employers to Offer EPO Benefit Plans**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Edwards, Sen. Krawiec, Sen. Burgin

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

The more options small businesses have to provide affordable, high-quality health insurance to their employees, the better these employers can manage costs and the healthier North Carolina will be as a state. Senate Bill 228 empowers small and local businesses with the capability to offer exclusive provider benefit plans (EPOs), promoting reduced health care costs for smaller employers and enhancing North Carolina's ability to cultivate growth on Main Street.

✔ **Senate Bill 462: Certificate of Need (CON)/Threshold Amds. & Certificate Expirations**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Krawiec, Sen. Perry, Sen. Burgin

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

Certificate of Need (CON) laws are designed to ensure major expenditures for health care facilities are determined based on community needs. The NC Chamber supports reforming North Carolina's CON laws to lower costs for health care systems and other job creators while opposing CON's outright elimination. Senate Bill 462 raises the dollar threshold that new institutional health services must exceed for diagnostic center equipment, major medical equipment, and capital expenditures, before they are subject to certificate of need review. It also requires those requesting a certificate of need to initiate those projects within a specified timeframe.

✔ **House Bill 776: Remote Notarization/Gov't Transparency**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. D. Hall, Rep. Davis, Rep. Hardister, Rep. Reives

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

Just as job creators need the flexibility to conduct essential operations remotely, they need that same flexibility in more transactional processes like notarization. And it benefits our state to provide it, since many businesses elsewhere are already authorized for remote notarization. The NC Chamber brought the business community's voice to bear this session in a stakeholder process around House Bill 776, supporting the version originating in the House that offered employers optimal flexibility but opposing changes in the Senate that would only allow remote notarization within the same jurisdiction. The bill that eventually passed into law was a good first step, but the NC Chamber will continue to advocate for a more workable and sensible remote notarization law..

✔ **House Bill 1020: Confirm Regina Adams/Bd of Review**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. D. Hall

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

This bill confirmed Regina Smith Adams's appointment to the North Carolina Employment Security Board of Review. We believe that Adams will be objective and fair as a representative for employees.

✔ **House Bill 1021: Confirm Myra Griffin/Industrial Commission**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. D. Hall

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

This bill would confirm Myra Griffin's reappointment to the North Carolina Industrial Commission. In her time as a Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, Griffin has objectively and fairly applied North Carolina's workers' compensation law to ensure injured claimants receive the medical treatment and wages they deserve, while also ensuring that fraudulent and erroneous claims that damage the viability and stability of North Carolina's mandated workers' compensation system are rejected.

✔ **Senate Bill 761: Confirm Kody Kinsley/Secretary of DHHS**

Primary Bill Sponsor: Sen. Rabon

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

The bill directs the Senate to consider the confirmation of Kody Kinsley as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Secretary Kinsley has proven to be an advocate for the business community through his open communication and consistent engagement with the NC Chamber. We hope to work with him collaboratively in his focus areas of behavioral health, child and family wellbeing, and a strong and inclusive workforce, and serve as a resource when appropriate.

COMPETITIVE BUSINESS CLIMATE

House Bill 334: JOBS Grants and Tax Relief (Senate Finance Package)

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Pickett, Rep. Saine

Status: Key measures included in 2021 state budget

For years, the NC Chamber has led successful efforts to propel North Carolina's business tax climate from the back of the pack – we ranked as low 46th nationwide within the past decade – straight onto the national leaderboard, with a 10th-place finish in 2021*. House Bill 334, amended by the Senate Finance Committee to include comprehensive tax reform proposals, features many priorities, like franchise tax reform, that are essential if we aim to reach our competitive potential (best business tax climate in the country, anyone?). While the bill itself did not pass, the NC Chamber's advocacy team worked hard to ensure key tax reform proposals were included in the state budget – including a streamlined and less burdensome franchise tax.

Senate Bill 337: Tax Relief and Recovery Act

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Newton, Sen. Daniel, Sen. Rabon

Status: The NC Chamber will continue to advocate for elimination of the franchise tax in the 2023 legislative long session.

The franchise tax is a regressive, non-competitive tax that penalizes businesses for making tangible investments in North Carolina. While the legislature simplified the franchise tax in 2021, we continue to push for full elimination of this tax so that North Carolina job creators can invest more money in our economy. It will also make North Carolina more attractive for new business investment, raising our standing in the global race for jobs.

ANTI-BUSINESS BILLS

⊗ **Senate Bill 357: Helping Consumers in Crisis Act**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Sen. Craven, Sen. Alexander

Status: Sidelined by NC Chamber opposition

This bill proposes to expand the ability of certain entities in North Carolina to engage in abusive third-party litigation funding, a practice that exposes job creators and others to higher risks for frivolous lawsuits and drives costs upward across our tort system. Its passage would threaten progress made by the NC Chamber and NC Chamber Legal Institute to reestablish a top-10 legal climate for business in North Carolina.

⊗ **Senate Bill 477: Victims' Fair Treatment Act**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Britt, Sen. Perry, Sen. Galey

Status: Sidelined by NC Chamber opposition

Like Senate Bill 357, Senate Bill 477 is an anti-growth, anti-competitiveness bill that would harm North Carolina's business legal climate. It would end North Carolina's decades of adherence to the contributory negligence legal standard, based on the notion that a plaintiff should generally be ineligible to collect damages from an incident stemming from their own negligence. This standard is a critical cog in a well-balanced structure of checks and balances within our civil liability system, with a history of promoting fair treatment for plaintiffs and defendants alike.

⊗ **House Bill 546 & Senate Bill 686: Legislation Impacting Call Centers**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Richardson, Rep. Setzer, Rep. Goodwin, Sen. Lee, Sen. Galey

Status: Sidelined by NC Chamber opposition

These union-backed bills would implement various restrictive measures on employers who operate call centers in North Carolina, mandating that these employers provide for retraining at a community college for staff members experiencing job loss for any reason and requiring employers to repay any grants, guaranteed loans, tax benefits, or any other governmental support they have previously received. The bills would also introduce new and burdensome reporting mandates on call center employers. Since call centers do not need to locate in the same state as a company's headquarters or even in a state where a company conducts a substantially large proportion of its business, businesses have a great deal of flexibility to make these investments in states with the most favorable mix of legal, regulatory, and tax policies. North Carolina's competitive business climate has attracted many of these investments, but the broad nature of these bills would harm our competitiveness by discouraging new investments.

⊗ **House Bill 539/Senate Bill 476: Protecting Properly Insured Individuals**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Stevens/Sen. Britt, Sen. Perry, Sen. Galey
Status: Sideline d by NC Chamber opposition

These bills would make a number of unwarranted changes to North Carolina statutes surrounding the validity of certain liens for medical charges in civil actions. This would inflate the charges recoupable by injured parties when certain medical charges are at issue in civil actions, effectively resulting in the potential for phantom damages to be awarded to these parties.

⊗ **Senate Bill 475/House Bill 538: Transparency in Evidence Standards**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Britt, Sen. Perry, Sen. Galey/Rep. Stevens
Status: Sideline d by NC Chamber opposition

These companion bills would amend Rule 411 of the North Carolina Rules of Evidence regarding the admissibility of certain kinds of evidence in civil liability cases. The proposed measures increase costs and decrease predictability for businesses involved in civil liability cases.

⊗ **House Bill 1095: PFAS Pollution and Polluter Liability**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Davis, Rep. Iler, Rep. Miller, Rep. Reives
Status: Sideline d by NC Chamber opposition

The NC Chamber opposed this bill as it would bypass decades of precedent for adding new regulations on job creators, enabling NCDEQ to circumvent the EMC and RRC processes for new regulations. Additionally, it would expand the scope of company liability retroactively, harm North Carolina's business liability and regulatory predictability climate, and open the door for expansive cost increases on manufacturers and job creators.

⊗ **Senate Bill 848: Tax Relief for NC Emps. & UI Reform**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Nickel, Sen. Lowe, Sen. Woodard
Status: Sideline d by NC Chamber opposition

The bill would raise the maximum for the state's unemployment insurance (UI) weekly benefit to \$500 and would extend the eligibility to 26 weeks. SB848 would also allow for an employer tax credit that North Carolina's business community is not seeking. Lawmakers must examine the fiscal impacts of any permanent changes that might disrupt the long-term solvency of North Carolina's UI fund and threaten the reforms achieved in 2013.

⊗ **House Bill 1113: Break Free From Plastics & Forever Chemicals**

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Butler, Rep. Harrison, Rep. Hawkins, Rep. Autry
Status: Sideline d by NC Chamber opposition

This bill is an act to establish extended producer responsibility for certain producers of packaging materials and to ban the manufacturing and distribution of packaging materials containing certain substances. This bill would harm the regulatory environment for the manufacturing sector.

Infrastructure & Growth Leadership

This biennium has been defined by widespread disruptions to critical infrastructure: A major fuel pipeline stopped by cyberattacks, a sprawling energy grid brought to the brink of collapse by the elements, a global supply chain gridlocked by a worldwide web of cause-and-effect. To meet the demands of our growing population – and brace for the unknowns of a fast-changing world – North Carolina must modernize our strategies to strengthen and grow resilient, reliable, globally competitive infrastructure networks.

PRO-BUSINESS BILLS



House Bill 951: Energy Solutions for North Carolina

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Arp, Rep. Szoka, Rep. D. Hall, Rep. Bell

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

Through a thoughtful, deliberate negotiation process, House Bill 951 earned broad support from both Democratic and Republican lawmakers, cementing a bipartisan foundation for our state's energy future. The final version of the bill – which the NC Chamber's collaborative advocacy helped to secure – will empower our state to reach ambitious carbon-reduction targets, modernize and protect our energy grid, and safeguard the affordable and reliable energy our communities count on for success. And it will do so while growing more jobs and creating new opportunities across our state.



Senate Bill 605: North Carolina Farm Act of 2021

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. B. Jackson, Sen. Sanderson, Sen. Edwards

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

The North Carolina Farm Act, secured with NC Chamber support and bipartisan backing from legislators, will enhance job creators' access to two key energy resources: natural gas and renewable natural gas. The NC Chamber specifically supported a measure creating a new general permit for farms with anaerobic digester systems to collect and distribute renewable natural gas to our state's existing gas infrastructure, reducing regulatory lag on these agribusinesses.



Senate Bill 762: North Carolina Farm Act of 2022

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. B. Jackson, Sen. Sanderson, Sen. Woodard

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

This bill includes numerous provisions specifically dealing with agriculture and agribusiness. The NC Chamber did not support the bill's Right to Repair language for OEMs, or Original Equipment Manufacturers; however, that section was amended into a study by Senator Jackson which passed unanimously.



Senate Bill 455: Conform Hemp with Federal Law

Primary Sponsors: Sen. Britt, Sen. Mohammed, Sen. Lee

Status: Passed into law with NC Chamber support

House committee substitute amends the definition of marijuana under the NC Controlled Substances Act, set out to explicitly exclude hemp and hemp products. Why we're supporting: The NC Chamber supports the bill language allowing for the predictability of growing hemp in the state of North Carolina.

Senate Bill 793: Study Ecom. Dlvr. Fee/Sfer Rev for Transport

Primary Bill Sponsors: Sen. Sawyer, Sen. McInnis, Sen. Woodard

Status: The language of this bill was included in the state budget, which was signed into law. This is a win for the NC Chamber.

This bill that would allocate a percentage of the total sales tax collected for transfer from the state's General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund. The transfer would be marked at 2 percent in the 2023 fiscal year (est. \$193.1 million), 4 percent in 2024 (est. \$401.2 million), and 6 percent in 2025 and thereafter (est. \$628.3 million in 2025, \$655.9 million in 2026, and \$684.8 million in 2027). The Highway Trust Fund invests in major infrastructure projects across the state and this increased funding would alleviate the pressures created by inflation and increased real-estate costs. This is a key step in securing modernized, diversified revenue streams to keep transportation infrastructure well-funded over the next decade and beyond.

House Bill 947: The G.R.E.A.T. Broadband Expansion Act

Primary Bill Sponsors: Rep. Arp, Rep. Lambeth, Rep. Saine, Rep. Johnson

Status: Key priorities included in state budget

The historical success of the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) grant program – of which the NC Chamber has been a major proponent – has helped our state become a national leader in broadband deployment. House Bill 947 aimed to push the envelope even further, allocating \$750 million in federal ARP funding to split broadband investments between the GREAT program and another initiative, Completing Access to Broadband (CAB), focused on expanding broadband in unserved parts of the state. The bill itself did not pass, but a proposal with nearly \$1 billion in ARP funding for broadband investments was included in the budget.

House Bill 220: Choice of Energy/Add'l Provisions

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Arp, Rep. Miller, Rep. Saine, Rep. Szoka

Status: This bill was vetoed by Governor Cooper. The NC Chamber will reevaluate this policy for the 2023 legislative long session.

Employers need customizability when managing their energy services to maximize both affordability and reliability. House Bill 220 is designed to give North Carolina's job creators more choice over the energy sources that fuel their businesses, enabling them to fine-tune an optimal energy strategy well-suited to their unique power, heating, and cost-management needs.

NC Senate

2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

☉ Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
44	W. Ted Alexander ☉	16	0	100%	98%
45	Deanna Ballard ☉	18	0	100%	97%
11	Lisa S. Barnes ☉	17	0	100%	95%
17	Sydney Batch ☉	13	2	87%	77%
3	Ernestine Bazemore	6	3	67%	67%
30	Phil Berger ☉	18	0	100%	97%
14	Dan Blue	12	4	75%	66%
13	Danny Earl Britt, Jr. ☉	18	0	100%	98%
12	Jim Burgin ☉	20	0	100%	99%
15	Jay J. Chaudhuri	9	4	69%	63%
21	Ben Clark ☉	14	3	82%	80%
50	Kevin Corbin ☉	18	0	100%	95%
26	David W. Craven, Jr. ☉	15	0	100%	100%
18	Sarah Crawford ☉	13	3	81%	81%
46	Warren Daniel ☉	14	0	100%	91%
5	Don Davis ☉	11	2	85%	67%
19	Kirk deViere ☉	15	2	88%	78%
48	Chuck Edwards ☉	18	1	95%	97%
4	Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr.	13	4	76%	74%
33	Carl Ford ☉	17	0	100%	88%
23	Valerie P. Foushee	11	4	73%	62%
24	Amy S. Galey ☉	17	0	100%	100%
27	Michael Garrett ☉	13	2	87%	82%
43	Kathy Harrington ☉	16	0	100%	97%
47	Ralph Hise ☉	16	0	100%	92%

NC Senate 2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

🏆 Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
10	Brent Jackson 🏆	18	0	100%	98%
37	Jeff Jackson	12	4	75%	63%
29	Steve Jarvis 🏆	16	0	100%	95%
35	Todd Johnson 🏆	18	0	100%	99%
31	Joyce Krawiec 🏆	18	0	100%	97%
6	Michael A. Lazzara 🏆	16	0	100%	100%
9	Michael V. Lee 🏆	19	0	100%	100%
32	Paul A. Lowe, Jr. 🏆	13	2	87%	72%
41	Natasha R. Marcus	11	4	73%	70%
49	Julie Mayfield	10	4	71%	71%
25	Tom McInnis 🏆	16	0	100%	99%
38	Mujtaba A. Mohammed	10	5	67%	64%
20	Natalie S. Murdock	9	5	64%	79%
36	Paul Newton 🏆	16	0	100%	99%
16	Wiley Nickel	9	5	64%	65%
7	Jim Perry 🏆	18	0	100%	97%
42	Dean Proctor 🏆	17	0	100%	100%
8	Bill Rabon 🏆	16	0	100%	97%
28	Gladys A. Robinson	10	5	67%	60%
39	DeAndrea Salvador	11	4	73%	73%
2	Norman W. Sanderson 🏆	18	0	100%	94%
34	Vickie Sawyer 🏆	18	0	100%	99%
1	Bob Steinburg 🏆	17	0	100%	92%
40	Joyce Waddell 🏆	15	2	88%	66%
22	Mike Woodard	14	4	78%	68%

NC House 2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

🏆 Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021-2022 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
96	Jay Adams 🏆	15	2	88%	94%
41	Gale Adcock, FNP	11	5	69%	71%
115	John Ager	14	4	78%	68%
107	Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.	7	2	78%	75%
29	Vernetta Alston	11	7	61%	72%
69	Dean Arp 🏆	20	1	95%	92%
100	John Autry	12	6	67%	57%
72	Amber M. Baker	11	4	73%	73%
82	Kristin Baker, M.D. 🏆	16	2	89%	94%
49	Cynthia Ball	10	5	67%	63%
88	Mary Belk	10	7	59%	64%
10	John R. Bell, IV 🏆	16	1	94%	95%
86	Hugh Blackwell 🏆	15	1	94%	78%
52	James L. Boles, Jr. 🏆	15	1	94%	91%
98	John R. Bradford, III 🏆	18	1	95%	95%
22	William D. Brisson 🏆	17	1	94%	91%
60	Cecil Brockman	10	3	77%	73%
55	Mark Brody 🏆	14	3	82%	85%
92	Terry M. Brown Jr.	13	5	72%	72%
18	Deb Butler	13	5	72%	62%
102	Becky Carney	12	4	75%	74%
119	Mike Clampitt 🏆	17	1	94%	94%
57	Ashton Wheeler Clemmons	10	5	67%	74%
14	George G. Cleveland 🏆	14	2	88%	79%
24	Linda Cooper-Suggs	13	5	72%	72%
106	Carla D. Cunningham	6	0	N/A	65%
11	Allison A. Dahle	13	5	72%	70%
20	Ted Davis, Jr. 🏆	15	1	94%	93%
4	Jimmy Dixon 🏆	14	0	100%	94%
94	Jeffrey Elmore 🏆	12	1	92%	92%

NC House 2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

☉ Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021-2022 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
35	Terence Everitt	13	5	72%	69%
62	John Faircloth ☉	17	1	94%	94%
9	Brian Farkas	14	4	78%	78%
114	Susan C. Fisher	11	7	61%	51%
25	James D. Gailliard	10	4	71%	79%
32	Terry E. Garrison ☉	15	3	83%	70%
33	Rosa U. Gill ☉	13	3	81%	63%
120	Karl E. Gillespie ☉	17	1	94%	94%
1	Edward C. Goodwin ☉	17	1	94%	91%
47	Charles Graham	13	4	76%	74%
85	Dudley Greene ☉	17	1	94%	94%
36	Julie von Haefen	12	6	67%	67%
87	Destin Hall ☉	22	1	96%	92%
91	Kyle Hall ☉	16	1	94%	92%
6	Bobby Hanig ☉	17	1	94%	94%
59	Jon Hardister ☉	17	1	94%	91%
105	Wesley Harris, PhD	13	5	72%	82%
61	Pricey Harrison	11	6	65%	49%
110	Kelly E. Hastings ☉	8	1	89%	91%
31	Zack Hawkins	12	5	71%	73%
77	Julia C. Howard ☉	13	0	100%	86%
12	Chris Humphrey ☉	17	1	94%	96%
103	Rachel Hunt	14	4	78%	77%
5	Howard J. Hunter, III ☉	14	2	88%	81%
70	Pat B. Hurley ☉	17	1	94%	92%
63	Ricky Hurtado	13	5	72%	72%
17	Frank Iler ☉	17	1	94%	92%
56	Verla Insko	9	7	56%	53%
40	Joe John	14	4	78%	68%
113	Jake Johnson ☉	17	1	94%	93%

NC House 2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

🏆 Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021-2022 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
38	Abe Jones	11	7	61%	61%
46	Brenden H. Jones 🏆	15	1	94%	96%
79	Keith Kidwell 🏆	12	1	92%	84%
75	Donny Lambeth 🏆	17	1	94%	91%
109	Donnie Loftis	0	0	N/A	N/A
104	Brandon Lofton	13	5	72%	76%
101	Carolyn G. Logan	13	4	76%	68%
42	Marvin W. Lucas 🏆	13	3	81%	76%
99	Nasif Majeed 🏆	14	3	82%	79%
34	Grier Martin	10	6	63%	61%
13	Pat McElraft 🏆	16	1	94%	92%
84	Jeffrey C. McNeely 🏆	17	1	94%	94%
78	Allen McNeill 🏆	15	1	94%	93%
50	Graig R. Meyer	10	5	67%	63%
19	Charles W. Miller 🏆	18	1	95%	95%
95	Grey Mills 🏆	16	1	94%	94%
117	Timothy D. Moffitt 🏆	17	1	94%	98%
111	Tim Moore 🏆	17	1	94%	95%
30	Marcia Morey	11	7	61%	56%
66	Ben T. Moss, Jr. 🏆	13	1	93%	93%
37	Erin Paré 🏆	18	1	95%	95%
53	Howard Penny, Jr. 🏆	16	1	94%	94%
93	Ray Pickett 🏆	16	0	100%	100%
48	Garland E. Pierce	13	4	76%	68%
83	Larry G. Pittman	14	4	78%	78%
118	Mark Pless 🏆	16	2	89%	89%
81	Larry W. Potts 🏆	17	1	94%	91%
65	A. Reece Pyrtle, Jr.	5	0	N/A	100%
58	Amos L. Quick, III	10	6	63%	61%
54	Robert T. Reives, II 🏆	12	3	80%	65%

Legislators receiving "N/A" score did not meet criteria stated in Process and Methodology.

NC House 2021-2022 HOW THEY VOTED

☉ Denotes 2021-2022 Jobs Champion

DISTRICT	LEGISLATOR	PRO-JOBS POINTS	ANTI-JOBS POINTS	2021-2022 PERCENTAGE	LIFETIME PERCENTAGE
44	William O. Richardson	14	4	78%	75%
64	Dennis Riddell ☉	17	1	94%	93%
39	James Roberson	13	5	72%	72%
112	David Rogers ☉	14	2	88%	92%
97	Jason Saine ☉	18	1	95%	94%
67	Wayne Sasser ☉	16	1	94%	94%
51	John Sauls ☉	11	2	85%	94%
89	Mitchell S. Setzer ☉	12	3	80%	82%
15	Phil Shepard ☉	16	1	94%	91%
16	Carson Smith ☉	15	1	94%	94%
8	Kandie D. Smith	12	5	71%	75%
21	Raymond E. Smith, Jr. ☉	12	3	80%	72%
90	Sarah Stevens ☉	11	1	92%	93%
28	Larry C. Strickland ☉	16	2	89%	93%
45	John Szoka ☉	18	1	95%	95%
71	Evelyn Terry	13	5	72%	62%
108	John A. Torbett ☉	15	3	83%	91%
116	Brian Turner ☉	13	3	81%	74%
3	Steve Tyson ☉	15	2	88%	88%
76	Harry Warren ☉	17	1	94%	87%
80	Sam Watford ☉	17	1	94%	94%
43	Diane Wheatley ☉	16	1	94%	94%
26	Donna McDowell White ☉	17	1	94%	91%
23	Shelly Willingham ☉	17	1	94%	69%
68	David Willis ☉	16	1	94%	94%
7	Matthew Winslow ☉	13	1	93%	93%
27	Michael H. Wray ☉	17	1	94%	82%
2	Larry Yarborough ☉	12	2	86%	94%
73	Lee Zachary ☉	15	1	94%	95%
74	Jeff Zenger ☉	15	1	94%	94%

Legislators receiving "N/A" score did not meet criteria stated in Process and Methodology.

NC CHAMBER 2021-2022

Policy Leaders

The NC Chamber wishes to shine a spotlight on the following legislators for their special attention to pro-business policies and solutions during the 2021-2022 legislative session.

House and Senate Transportation Champions The NC Chamber celebrates the efforts of transportation champions Sen. Vickie Sawyer, Sen. Tom McInnis, Rep. Brenden Jones. These legislators worked hard to advance solutions to **modernize North Carolina's outdated transportation revenue streams**, a core priority of the NC Chamber and the job creators on our **Destination 2030 Coalition**. A stakeholder process led by Sen. Sawyer, the **NC TEN Commission**, engaged many of the players in our transportation network economy, delivering a menu of revenue modernization options for leaders to consider in upcoming sessions. It's clear Sen. Vickie Sawyer understands the needs of our transportation system and is willing to do the hard work of consensus building around next generation revenue solutions.

Additionally, were it not for these members, the NC Chamber would not have secured the recurring annual delivery to the Highway Fund of nearly **\$90 million in revenue derived from short-term vehicle leases in this year's budget**.

Most notably, the state is committing to **allocate a percentage of the total sales tax collected for transfer from the state's General Fund to the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund**. The transfer would be marked at 2 percent in the 2023 fiscal year (est. \$193.1 million), 4 percent in 2024 (est. \$401.2 million), and 6 percent in 2025 and thereafter (est. \$628.3 million in 2025, \$655.9 million in 2026, and \$684.8 million in 2027). The revenue is split at 25 percent to the Highway Fund and 75 percent to the Highway Trust Fund. This is transformative policy and would not have been achieved without the efforts of these legislators and the persistent advocacy of the NC Chamber's Destination 2030 Coalition.

Sen. Dan Blue We commend Sen. Dan Blue for special efforts to build a bipartisan coalition to pass **House Bill 951 (Energy Solutions for North Carolina)**. As Democratic Leader of the NC Senate, Sen. Blue worked across the aisle with legislators and other stakeholders to provide North Carolina with a statewide energy strategy that will support our economic growth and energy security as we strive toward a cleaner energy future.

Rep. John Sauls As Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, Rep. John Sauls was a consistent advocate for **commonsense, business-minded legislation in the NC House**. The NC Chamber could depend on his leadership to advance key legislation and challenge bills that would harm North Carolina's competitiveness.

Sen. Paul Newton As Chairman of the Senate Finance and Energy Committees, Sen. Paul Newton was essential in developing and passing key legislation like **House Bill 951 (Energy Solutions for North Carolina)** and the **2021 State Budget Finance Package**, the latter of which reduced personal income taxes and simplified and reduced the burdensome franchise tax.

Rep. Dean Arp As Chairman of Energy and Public Utilities, the NC Chamber recognizes Rep. Dean Arp for his diligent work on **House Bill 220, House Bill 947, and House Bill 951**. Through **House Bill 947 (The G.R.E.A.T. Broadband Expansion Act)**, thousands of additional students, families, and businesses across our state will be able to use broadband services to better connect with the world around them.

Senator Brent Jackson As Chairman of Appropriations, Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committees, Senator Brent Jackson's pro-business leadership behind **Senate Bill 605 & 762 (North Carolina Farm Act of 2021 & 2022)** was critical this past session. Specifically he was the lead advocate for a new general farm permit to increase access and regulatory predictability for renewable natural gas infrastructure for growers and job creators. We also applaud Senator Jackson for his thoughtful and measured approach on the OEM Right to Repair study language from Senate Bill 762, and for convening study commission meetings across the state to hear from stakeholders on the issue.

House and Senate Flood Mitigation Champions The NC chamber commends Rep. John Bell and Sen. Jim Perry for their work to secure flood mitigation funding in the state budget. Specifically, language from the **Disaster Relief and Mitigation Act of 2021**, appropriating nearly **\$220 million in funding for various flood mitigation and resilience projects**. This critical provision will help North Carolina harden our infrastructure against future flood damage and ensure we are fully prepared to support recovery efforts when damage does occur.

Bills Scored

BY THE NUMBERS

86% 2021-2022 NCGA Average Score

89% Senate Average Score

36 Senate Jobs Champions

28 Senate Republican Champions

8 Senate Democrat Champions

85% House Average Score

76 House Jobs Champions

66 House Republican Champions

10 House Democrat Champions

15 Pro-Business Bills Scored

1 Anti-Business Bill Scored

12 Pro-Business Bills Became Law with Chamber Support

0 Anti-Business Bills Became Law

The title of Jobs Champion does not equate to an endorsement of a legislator's candidacy by the NC Chamber, NC Chamber PAC, or another entity affiliated with the NC Chamber.

Message from the Political Director

KIRK O'STEEN

Part of my job in overseeing the political engagement of the NC Chamber is to hold legislators accountable for their votes taken on business-related matters and Chamber-backed initiatives. We pride ourselves in making sure our *How They Voted* scoring process is as objective as possible, and it is my pleasure to congratulate our Jobs Champions for the 2021-2022 session. The business community is thankful to have so many advocates in state government.



When I look back on this legislative session, I will remember the good governance work that took place – albeit in unconventional ways. North Carolina's success in building a strong business climate is no secret. As we look ahead to 2023, the business community faces many obstacles, both old and new. The NC Chamber looks forward to addressing those challenges head on and defending North Carolina's title as the #1 state to do business.

In the meantime, please contact me at kosteen@ncchamber.com with any questions, comments, or issues that may be on your mind. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Kirk O'Steen
Political Director
NC Chamber

The 2021 and 2022 state budgets continued a trend of enacting NC Chamber-supported reforms to further strengthen North Carolina's position as a business-friendly state.

Here is just a sampling of the positive recognition our state's business climate has earned lately:

- **America's Top State for Business**
CNBC
- **Best Business Climate**
Business Facilities Magazine
- **Best State for Business Three Years Running**
Forbes
- **2022 and 2021 Prosperity Cup Winner for success in recruiting and retaining**
- **2021 Top State Business Climate**
Site Selection Magazine
- **2021 Golden Shovel Award for economic development**
Area Development Magazine
- **Top-10 Business Tax Climate**
Tax Foundation
- **Top-5 State for Effective, Real-World Business Tax Rates in 2021**
Tax Foundation
- **2020 State of the Year**
Business Facilities Magazine
- **Top Regulatory Climate in 2019**
Forbes

NORTH CAROLINA

Looking to 2023

The NC Chamber congratulates those elected to the N.C. General Assembly. Our team looks forward to working with you to maintain and advance a competitive business climate that grows private-sector jobs as outlined in the NC Chamber's forthcoming 2023 Jobs Agenda.

Our state's diverse business community recognizes that, at times, you may address complex, sensitive, and controversial issues, we trust you will do so with balance, respect, and an eye on maintaining North Carolina's status as a top state to live and work.

Our goal, as the state's largest and most diverse business organization, will be to never surprise you, maintain high visibility and accessibility when it comes to issues impacting our business climate, and to be direct and communicate our concerns when we believe our status as the leading state for private-sector job creation is at risk.

NC CHAMBER

Government Affairs Team



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Transportation and infrastructure, tax, finance, tort reform, health care



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