

By Jim Barrett

The Michigan Chamber's 2003-2004 Job Providers Index

Introduction

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce was established in 1959 to represent employer interests in the legislative, regulatory and political process.

In the private sector, accountability is an important part of our economic system. Every day, consumers make choices to purchase or not to purchase products or services.

In the public sector, our system of checks and balances is a plus, but with three separate and independent branches of government involved in establishing public pol-



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icy, holding legislators accountable for action or inaction on key issues can be difficult. Difficult, but not impossible.

The purpose of the 2003-2004 Job Providers Index (JPI) is to provide the business community and other interested parties with a measure of how each member of the Michigan Legislature voted on a range of economic issues of importance to Michigan's job providers.

ulatory affairs, tax policy, and tort reform. The Michigan Chamber's position on these key issues was established by Chamber members and communicated to the Legislature in a timely manner.

Campaign Endorsements

The Job Providers Index is also the basis for campaign endorsements for incumbent legislators. Any incumbent legislator seeking reelection to the same office who scores

75 percent or better on the Job Providers Index receives an "earned endorsement." However, the Chamber reserves the right to withhold an endorsement from a legislator for unethical or improper conduct.

2003-2004 JOB PROVIDERS INDEX



KEY SENATE VOTES

EDUCATION

ALLOW MORE CHARTER SCHOOLS—Senate Bill 393

Concur with the House version of a bill to allow a state university to charter up to 15 urban high school academies in Detroit. The Chamber supported concurrence. The Senate concurred.

Roll Call Number 420

SCHOOL ELECTION CONSOLIDATION—Senate Bill 877

Passage of a bill to provide for school election consolidation. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 615

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GROUNDWATER CONFLICT RESOLUTION—House Bill 4087

Passage of a bill to establish a process to resolve groundwater conflicts. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 194

WASTEWATER PROGRAM FEES AND STANDARDS—Senate Bill 252

Adoption of a conference report to establish fees and performance standards for administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater program. The Chamber supported adoption. The report was adopted.

Roll Call Number 163

REGULATE GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL—Senate Bill 289

Adoption of an amendment that would allow the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, through an administrative rule, to regulate groundwater withdrawal. The Chamber opposed adoption of the amendment. The amendment was not adopted.

Roll Call Number 97

CREATE GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COUNCIL—Senate Bill 289

Passage of a bill to require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to prepare a statewide groundwater inventory and create a groundwater advisory council. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 98

HEALTH POLICY

REMOVING HEALTH CARE COSTS FROM SBT BASE—Senate Bill 672

Passage of a bill to remove part of the cost of employer-provided health care from the Single Business Tax base. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 611

HUMAN RESOURCES

PREVAILING WAGE ORDINANCES—House Bill 4160

Adoption of an amendment to recognize local prevailing wage ordinances. The Chamber opposed the amendment. The amendment was not adopted.

Roll Call Number 173

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE—House Bill 4160

Adoption of an amendment to link passage of House Bill 4160 to another bill that would raise the state minimum wage. The Chamber opposed adoption. The amendment was not adopted.

Roll Call Number 175

MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCES—House Bill 4160

Passage of a bill to prohibit certain local minimum wage ordinances. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. The Governor vetoed the bill.

Roll Call Number 177

WORKERS' COMPENSATION APPEALS PROCESS—Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 33

Adoption of a resolution to disapprove an Executive Order that attempted to make unfair changes to the workers' compensation appeals process. The Chamber supported adoption. The resolution was adopted.

Roll Call Number 430

REGULATORY AFFAIRS

PROTECT SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS—House Bill 4764

Passage of a bill to help Michigan public corporations respond to hostile takeover attempts. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 426

TAX POLICY

CASINO TAX INCREASE—House Bill 4612

Passage of a bill to raise the tax on casinos in Detroit. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 570

IMPLEMENT STREAMLINE SALES TAX—House Bill 5503

Passage of a bill to implement the streamline sales tax project in Michigan. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 379

CANCEL ROLLBACK OF SINGLE BUSINESS TAX—House Bill 5632

Adoption of a substitute bill to cancel a scheduled rollback of the SBT rate. The Chamber opposed adoption. The substitute was adopted.

Roll Call Number 421

EXCISE TAX INCREASE—House Bill 5632

Passage of a bill to raise the tax on tobacco products. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 422

DELAY INCOME TAX CUT—Senate Bill 852

Passage of a bill to delay a scheduled reduction in the income tax rate. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed.

Roll Call Number 599

EXCISE TAX INCREASE—Senate Bill 1101

Passage of a bill to raise the liquor tax. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill did not pass.

Roll Call Number 420

ESTATE TAX INCREASE—Senate Bill 1113

Passage of a bill to raise the estate tax. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill did not pass.

Roll Call Number 418

SENATE

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COVER STORY



KEY: Y = Yes Vote, N = No Vote, NV = Not Voting, EX = Excused, * = Term Limited. Green shaded areas indicate an issue on which a legislator voted with the Michigan Chamber's position.

Table with columns for Senate Bill/Resolution, Education, Environmental Quality, Health Policy, Human Resources, Regulatory Affairs, Tax Policy, and Total Votes Cast. Rows list various bills and the voting record of each senator.

MICHIGAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE logo and text: Green shaded areas indicate an issue on which a legislator voted with the Michigan Chamber's position.

Table with 18 columns: Bill Number, Title, and various House and Senate Roll Call numbers (RC 385 to RC 670).

Main table with 18 columns: Representative Name, Party-District-City, % Rating, and House/Senate Roll Call numbers. Rows include representatives like Acciavitti Jr., Adams, Amos, Anderson, Bieda, Bisbee, Bradstreet, Brandenburg, Brown, Byrum, Casperon, Caswell, Caul, Checks, Clack, Clack, Condino, Daniels, Dennis, DeRosset, Drolet, Ehard, Elkins, Emmons, Farhat, Farrah, Gaffney, Garfield, Gieglehem, Gillard, Gleason, Hager, Hardman, Hart, Hood III, Hoogendyk, Hoppgood, Howell, Huizenga, Hummel, Hune, Hunter, Jamnick, Johnson, Koejtje, Kolb, Kooiman, Lajoy, LaSata, Law, Lipsey, McConico, Meisner, Meyer, Middaugh, Milosch, Minore, Moolenaar, Mortimer, Murphy, Newell, Nitz, Nofs, O'Neil, Paletko, Palmer, Palsrok, Pappageorge, Pastor, Phillips, Plakas, Pumford, Reeves, Richarville, Rivet, Robertson, Rocca, Sak, Shackleton, Shaffer, Sheen, Sheltroun, Shulman, Smith, Spade, Stahl, Stakoe, Stallworth, Steil Jr., Stewart, Tabor, Taub, Tobocman, Vagnozzi, Vander Veen, Van Regenmorter, Voorhees, Walker, Ward, Waters, Wenke, Whitmer, Williams, Wojno, Woodward, Woronchak, and Zelenko.

KEY HOUSE VOTES

EDUCATION
OVERREGULATE CHARTER SCHOOLS—House Bill 5660
Adoption of an amendment to subject charter schools to regulation by local zoning authorities. The Chamber opposed adoption. Roll Call Number 385

ALLOW MORE CHARTER SCHOOLS—Senate Bill 393
Passage of a bill to allow a state university to charter up to 15 urban high schools in Detroit. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 501

SCHOOL ELECTION CONSOLIDATION—Senate Bill 877
Passage of a bill to provide for school election consolidation. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 788

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GROUNDWATER CONFLICT RESOLUTION—House Bill 4087
Passage of a bill to establish a process to resolve groundwater conflicts. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 20

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PLAN REVIEW—House Bill 5660
Passage of a bill to require public school districts to submit school construction plans to local zoning authorities for review. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 386

WASTEWATER PROGRAM FEES AND STANDARDS—Senate Bill 252
Adoption of a conference report to establish fees and performance standards for administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater program. The Chamber supported adoption. The report was adopted. Roll Call Number 238

WASTEWATER PROGRAM INSPECTIONS—Senate Bill 252
Adoption of an amendment to require unnecessary inspections of industrial facilities. The Chamber opposed adoption. The amendment was not adopted. Roll Call Number 538

WASTEWATER PROGRAM FEES—Senate Bill 252
Adoption of an amendment to allow the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to raise NPDES fees by rule. The Chamber opposed adoption. The amendment was not adopted. Roll Call Number 540

CREATE GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COUNCIL—Senate Bill 289
Passage of a bill to require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to prepare a statewide groundwater inventory and create a groundwater advisory council. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 467

HEALTH POLICY
REMOVING HEALTH CARE COSTS FROM SBT BASE—Senate Bill 672
Passage of a bill to remove part of the cost of employer-provided health care from the Single Business Tax base. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 802

HUMAN RESOURCES
PREVAILING WAGE ORDINANCES—House Bill 4160
Adoption of an amendment to recognize local prevailing wage ordinances. The Chamber opposed adoption. The amendment was not adopted. Roll Call Number 14

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE—House Bill 4160
Adoption of an amendment to link passage of House Bill 4160 to another bill that would raise the state minimum wage. The Chamber opposed adoption. The amendment was not adopted. Roll Call Number 16

PROHIBIT LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCES—House Bill 4160
Passage of a bill to prohibit local government minimum wage ordinances. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. The Governor vetoed the bill. Roll Call Number 17

TAX POLICY
PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF—House Bill 4234
Passage of a bill to increase the amount of business property exempt from the personal property tax. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 342

EXCISE TAX INCREASE—House Bill 4865
Passage of a bill to raise the liquor tax. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill did not pass. Roll Call Number 261

IMPLEMENT STREAMLINE SALES TAX—House Bill 5503
Passage of a bill to implement the streamline sales tax project in Michigan. The Chamber supported passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 382

TEMPORARY TAX INCREASE—House Bill 5632
Adoption of amendments to make the tobacco tax increase temporary instead of permanent. The Chamber supported adoption. The amendments were not adopted. Roll Call Number 546

EXCISE TAX INCREASE—House Bill 5632
Concur with the Senate to raise the tax on tobacco products and cancel a scheduled reduction in the Single Business Tax. The Chamber opposed concurring. The House concurred. Roll Call Number 547

ESTATE TAX INCREASE—House Bill 5708
Passage of a bill to raise the estate tax. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill did not pass. Roll Call Number 260

DELAY INCOME TAX CUT—Senate Bill 852
Passage of a bill to delay a scheduled reduction in the income tax rate. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 801

TORT REFORM
ALLOW MORE LAWSUITS—House Bill 5338
Passage of a bill to revise Michigan's tort reform law to make it easier for medical malpractice lawsuits to move forward. The Chamber opposed passage. The bill passed. Roll Call Number 670