



The Business Council of Alabama's (BCA) foremost purpose is to aggressively represent Alabama's business community by supporting pro-business and industry initiatives at the State House in Montgomery and in Washington D.C. BCA's political action committee, ProgressPAC, and BCA's Advocacy Team, also work hard to help elect candidates who share the vision for Alabama's economic future, are committed to strengthening the state's free enterprise system, and will work to build a pro-growth environment in Alabama.

Below is a list of BCA's most recent successes in the legislative and political arenas:

Age for CDL Lowered from 21 to 18

- This bill allows individuals at age 18 to drive combination commercial vehicles of 26,000 lbs. or more (such as truck and trailer combos) within Alabama state lines, benefitting industries such as agriculture, utility providers and the beverage industry, just to name a few.
- This new standard will create thousands of jobs and will allow Alabama businesses that rely on trucks to move their goods or equipment to better compete with surrounding states for freight movement.

Protections from Third-Party Auditing Firms

- In many cases, state and local governments will contract with third-party auditing or collecting firms to either audit or collect taxes/fees from a taxpayer. In recent years, there have been instances where these private firms will charge the taxpayer for expense related to travel, personnel, and professional services.
- This will prohibit private auditing or collecting firms working on behalf of state or local governments from recovering those certain costs from a taxpayer.

Unemployment Compensation

- Previously, a person who lost a job, through no fault of their own, was eligible to apply for 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. Now they are eligible to apply for a maximum 14 weeks of benefits, unless the state's average unemployment rate is above 6.5 percent. The maximum weekly benefit increased to \$275.
- The annual savings to Alabama employers is an estimated \$45 million.

Apprenticeship Bill

- This legislation will streamline obtaining an apprenticeship and allow students to obtain certification in a qualified skill or trade and will align training on a statewide level for workforce credentialing. If students receive occupational licensing or apprenticeship credentialing, it must be recognized as valid by any Alabama agency, board, or commission of the appropriate skill or trade.



Economic Developer Exemption Bill

- This legislation clarifies that economic developers do not have to register as lobbyists. If classified as lobbyists, economic developers would have to reveal information that could endanger economic development efforts by causing businesses seeking to locate projects to avoid considering Alabama.
- Top site selectors in the country have said lobbyist registration requirements would kill economic development in Alabama.

ProgressPAC

- Legislative success happens when the right people are elected, and that is what ProgressPAC is all about – the commitment to fighting for Alabama’s future by endorsing pro-job candidates who will help lead Alabama in the right direction.
- BCA’s ProgressPAC has seen consistent success in its endorsements in legislative, constitutional, and judicial races.
- In 2020, ProgressPAC endorsed 13 winning candidates in elections held for positions at the state and federal level.
 - U.S. Congress
 - District 1 - Jerry Carl
 - District 3 - Mike Rogers
 - District 4 - Robert Aderholt
 - District 6 - Gary Palmer
 - District 7 - Terri Sewell
 - Alabama Supreme Court
 - Place 1 - Greg Shaw
 - Place 2 - Brad Mendheim
 - Alabama Court of Civil Appeals
 - Place 1 - Bill Thompson
 - Place 2 - Matt Fridy
 - Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals
 - Place 1 - Mary Windom
 - Place 2 - Beth Kellum
 - Alabama House of Representatives
 - District 33 - Ben Robbins (Special general election set for January 19, 2021)
 - District 49 - Russell Bedsole