



OHIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

POLICY PRIORITIES

135TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Work and Learn Ohio

- Creation of a public–private partnership connecting Ohio college students with Ohio-based employers to facilitate Ohio-based internships, externships, and co-ops.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce*, Pg. 29, Recommendation 2.5

2. Senate Bill 1

- Restructuring of both the Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education to provide stronger emphasis on workforce skills and career readiness.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce*, Pgs. 28-30, Recommendations 2 & 4

3. Innovation Hubs

- State funding to convene Innovation Hubs (modeled after Innovation Districts) in multiple mid-sized Ohio metropolitan centers, and in cooperation with regional business, higher education, and economic development partners, to fully unlock the potential of unique high-growth opportunities existing in various key industries.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Innovation and Collaboration*, Pg. 56 & Pg. 61, Recommendation 2.1

4. Ohio Manufacturing Readiness Grant Program

- Adoption of a grant program targeting small and medium-sized manufacturers otherwise lacking the capital and capability to modernize their machinery and facilities.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Innovation and Collaboration*, Pg. 61, Recommendation 3.2

5. Ohio Workforce Housing State Tax Credit Program

- Reintroduction of House Bill 560 from 134th General Assembly to provide a \$50 million annual tax credit for 10 years for the development of new affordable housing units, allowing Ohio to draw down \$120 million of federal bond volume cap for multifamily development.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place*, Pg. 41, Recommendation 1.1.2

6. Streamlining of Ohio's Administrative Code

- Reduction of up to 1/3rd of Ohio Administrative Code through the targeting of duplicative provisions, outdated sections, and unnecessary requirements.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Business Friendliness*, Pgs. 65 & 69, Recommendations 1 & 2

7. Promotion of Computer Science/STEM Offerings at the K-12 and Post-Secondary Education Levels

- Adoption of Recommendations by the State Committee on Computer Science to make Ohio a national leader in CS education and technological workforce pipeline.
- Incentivizing majors in CS-based fields to improve Ohio's ranking of 33rd of 50 states in the percentage of college degrees produced in Computer Science.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education & Workforce*, Pg. 30, Recommendation 4.2

8. Certified Mental Health Assistant Program

- New licensure concept to grow behavioral health workforce without creating scope of practice issues. Certified Mental Health Assistants would have limited prescriptive authority, but not have the ability to diagnose.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Sense of Place*, Pg. 42, Recommendation 2.3

9. Age Extension for Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) Program

- Reintroduction of House Bill 664 from 134th General Assembly to create a state Medicaid plan amendment to extend the MBIWD program for workers with disabilities ages 65 or older.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Education and Workforce*, Pg. 27, Recommendation 1.3

10. State Mineral Leasing Within Tier I and Tier II Lands

- These combined projects would yield well over \$1 billion in new state revenues, provide numerous jobs and opportunities throughout the state, and most can be performed with no surface impact to public lands.
- **Blueprint reference:** *Infrastructure*, Pg. 77 & 83, Recommendation 1.2