



TO: The Honorable Members of the PA Senate Labor & Industry Committee
FROM: Alex Halper, SVP, Government Affairs
DATE: April 9, 2024
RE: Support workforce bills in committee

On behalf of the PA Chamber, I urge you to support S.B. 1109 and S.B. 761, two workforce development bills scheduled to be considered in committee this week.

Pennsylvania employers of all sizes and industries continue to report difficulty finding individuals to hire. This workforce crisis is holding back Pennsylvania's economy, and employers are looking to lawmakers to advance policies that help unemployed Pennsylvanians and encourage people into the workforce.

S.B. 1109 – Discouraging “ghosting”

Unemployment compensation claimants are generally required to actively search for work, apply for and accept positions in their field. Unfortunately, employers report interviewing job candidates who admit they are only applying to comply with the work search requirement and often fail to show up for job interviews or work, known as “ghosting.” SB 1109 would clarify UC eligibility standards to codify that an individual is not eligible for benefits if they discourage their own employment.

SB 761 – Sharing Workforce Data

Local workforce development boards are on the front lines working with UC claimants to search for work. These boards are seeking more timely access to existing data, including UC claim data, to better support pathways to re-employment through targeted services and activities. We understand UC and new hire data can take up to 24 months to access. SB 761 directs state agencies to share already collected workforce data with local workforce development boards.

We urge you to support these bills. Please contact Alex Halper at ahalper@pachamber.org or 717-645-8730 with questions or to discuss.