

NJBIA: Economic Opportunity Act Helps NJ Compete for Private-Sector Jobs

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The New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 is exactly what New Jersey needs to effectively compete with surrounding states and the nation for both private-sector jobs and economic development, New Jersey First Vice President David Brogan said today.

“The competition for private-sector jobs has never been more fierce,” Brogan said, “and it’s a competition that New Jersey must win. This program will help us by matching or surpassing the job-creation incentives being offered by neighboring states and those across the nation.”

Brogan is scheduled to testify before the Assembly Budget Committee today in favor of the bill, **A-3680 (Coutinho, Singleton)**.

Under the Economic Opportunity Act, the state could provide financial incentives to encourage companies to locate or expand in New Jersey. To meet the requirements in the bill, businesses would have to make a capital investment and commit to the creation or retention of jobs, based on the type of industry the business is in.

“The sponsors of this bill understood that both the capital investment and job creation and retention thresholds in the current programs needed to be adjusted to increase participation,” Brogan said, referring to the \$20 million and \$50 million thresholds of the current Grow New Jersey Assistance Program and the Urban Transit Hub Program respectively.

To protect taxpayers, the bill stipulates that the net benefit to the state would have to be at least 110 percent of the amount of the incentive. Additionally, if a company does not meet its full job-creation obligations, the state would be able to recoup the financial incentives it paid.

“This program is designed to attract new businesses to New Jersey, create jobs and generate revenues, while at the same time, prevent other states from luring New Jersey businesses away,” Brogan said. “It creates a win-win scenario for New Jersey.”

Brogan added: “As long as we have to compete for jobs and investment in regional, national and world markets, New Jersey needs every tool in its arsenal to be successful. This bill accomplishes that goal by establishing truly competitive incentive programs that are based on sound fiscal policy.”

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