

POLICY POSITIONS

2021 - 2022

TAG POLICY OVERVIEW

Georgia is home to a robust and diverse technology sector, which serves as a vital component to the state's overall economic growth. According to the Technology Association of Georgia's (TAG) 2019 State of the Industry Report, technology wages were more than \$6.44B in 2018. Technology accounts for more than \$113 Billion annually in direct and indirect economic impact.

Georgia continues to be one of the nation's top 10 technology markets with 291,286 private sector technology employees in 2018. The state remains 4th in the nation in growth at 12.94% since we began tracking in 2012. This growth is significantly stronger than the national average of 5.31%.

Critical to the continued success and development of the state's technology industry is the implementation of policies that promote a well-balanced, inclusive and competitive environment where technology companies can thrive.

TAG is comprised of 40,000 tech and tech-enabled members representing all sectors and supports the following policies:

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

- Promote business-friendly policies, incentives and a tax structure to attract, retain, create and grow technology companies and infrastructure throughout Georgia.
- Policies that provide for the growth and expansion of emerging technologies and implementation of market-based solutions free from unnecessary government regulation or rule.
- Policies that modernize tech-related and communications laws.
- Policies to attract the most talented workforce to fill talent gaps in Georgia.
- Policies to encourage business and partnerships between Georgia's public and private sectors, increase technology use and open data to improve government efficiencies, and simplification of the state's procurement process.
- Policies that support a national standard for consumer privacy protections and data breach notifications.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Policies that stimulates innovation, encourages high-tech entrepreneurial activities, fosters competition and reduces barriers to entry.
- Policies that support early- and growth-stage Georgia companies through increased access to capital, creative and effective tax incentives and opportunities for technology transfers to create new tech companies.
- Policies to advance the state's technology ecosystem by incentivizing ideation, patent protection, processing of Intellectual Property and support of R&D activities.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- TAG values, supports and celebrates diversity and inclusion, which is vital to a successful, inclusive, innovative state; therefore, TAG opposes policies that would create discriminatory practices against any business, organization or individual, which could negatively impact the state.
- TAG supports the allocation of state funds for computer science curriculum in underserved communities.
- Policies that encourage a “Buy Georgia” program, especially in support of minority-owned businesses.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

- Policies that align and advance K-12 STEM curriculum to meet identified needs of Georgia’s technology workforce through deferential pay for qualified teachers and benchmarking capabilities.
- Policies that incentivize Georgia companies to proactively engage in workforce development.
- Policies and funding efforts to encourage on-line interactive and digital learning initiatives.
- Efforts to include technology needs for students as part of the state’s QBE funding formula.

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