

Economic Development DIGEST

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Womble Carlyle's Economic Development Digest aggregates news, opportunities and legislation impacting business in the United States.

In this week's Economic Development Digest:

Delaware

- [Fort DuPont redevelopment: flood risk a concern](#), *Delaware Online* (January 28, 2015)
Redevelopment along the Delaware River raises concerns about flood risk.

Florida

- [A blight on the county budget](#), *Miami Herald* (January 31, 2015)
Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) operate under different rules than local governments. For example, tax-increment revenue from counties and cities is diverted to CRA districts for redevelopment projects.
- [Spare affordable housing from draconian cut](#), *Bradenton Herald* (February 5, 2015)
In setting budgetary priorities, Florida weighs important interests such as affordable housing with competing interests such as land conservation.

Georgia

- [Georgia Senators propose creation of tax exemption study committee](#), *TaxAnalysts.com* (January 29, 2015)**
A dozen Georgia Democratic senators have introduced a bill (SR 65) that would create a tax exemption study committee to examine the effectiveness of economic development tax credits in the state.
- [Georgia House leaders propose transportation plan](#), *The Marietta Daily Journal* (January 29, 2015)**
Georgia legislators vote to increase state funding for transportation by \$1 billion annual by utilizing its gas tax and a usage fee for alternative fuel vehicle owners.

National

- [Obama and the State of the Union are strong](#), *The Washington Post* (January 21, 2015)
President Obama focused on the economy during his State of the Union speech.

North Carolina

- [Patrick Gannon: North Carolina newcomer to recruiting jobs](#), *Salisbury Post* (January 29, 2015)
North Carolina strives to bring an auto manufacturer to the state. The new CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, Christopher Chung, refers to landing an automobile plant as the "Holy Grail" for the economic development industry, and he has experience on that front.
- [Public hearing on new Carrboro arts center to continue tonight](#), *Chapel Hill News* (January 30, 2015)
A proposed arts and innovation center may require General Assembly support, as it could expand how a town can spend its hotel occupancy taxes.

[North Carolina Governor says historic preservation tax credit would revitalize town centers, TaxAnalysts.com \(February 4, 2015\)**](#)

In his February 4 State of the State address, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory (R) called on lawmakers to pass the Historic Preservation Tax Credit to revitalize the state's town centers and said he plans to request a series of job creation tools to help North Carolina encourage manufacturing, leverage university research, and promote investment.

- [Text of NC Gov. McCrory's State of the State address, wral.com \(February 4, 2015\)](#)
Prepared text of Governor Pat McCrory's State of the State address.
- [North Carolina's new pitchman ready to sell state, Charlotte Observer \(January 30, 2015\)](#)
Chris Chung, head of the state's new public-private Economic Development Partnership, pitches North Carolina to companies looking to relocate or expand in North Carolina.

South Carolina

- [SCRA's output within South Carolina \\$1.43 billion in 2014, lowcountrybizSC \(January 22, 2015\)](#)
SCRA announces 2014 economic impact results of \$1.43 billion, collected through a study led by the University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business.

Texas

- [Abbott: Time to kill state's Emerging Technology Fund, Texas Guardian \(January 30, 2015\)](#)
The new Governor of Texas moves to stop using state money to fund startup businesses.
- [Budget-writing process begins in Senate committee, Austin American-Statesman \(February 4, 2015\)](#)

West Virginia

In Texas' budget estimate, the Legislative Budget Board recommends a \$205 billion state budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal biennium. The current 2014-2015 budget is estimated at \$202 billion. The biggest chunks of the 2016-2017 recommended budget are \$77.5 billion for education, \$75 billion for health and human services and \$30 billion for business and economic development.

- [Gov. Tomblin signs senate bill supporting economic development, wdtv.com \(February 4, 2015\)](#)
West Virginia supports economic development with new legislation.

****Note: a paid subscription is required to access this article. A brief description has been provided. Please contact Womble Carlyle's Economic Development Team for more information on these developments.**

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